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General's A-10 treason comment sparks concerns over protected speech

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MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

Closing arguments

DOD cutbacks in Europe boost case for domestic BRAC

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

One motive behind the Pentagon's plan to close more European installations is to strengthen the case for similar closures in the U.S., which officials say could save billions of dollars over time.

But experts say that while the Pentagon has removed a major hurdle to domestic base closures, it still faces an uphill battle convincing a new, Republican-controlled Congress.

"I think [the changes in Europe] will help some in terms of persuading Congress to give BRAC authority," former Department of Defense comptroller Robert Hale said, referring to the Base

'I think [the changes in Europe] will help some in terms of persuading Congress to give BRAC authority.'

Robert Hale
former Department of Defense comptroller

Realignment and Closure process. "It was a reason in the past to deny BRAC authority. But I have to be candid and say I don't think it will be enough."

The Pentagon has requested BRAC authority from Congress in each of the past three annual budgets, pointing to tighter finances. The DOD says it is well over capacity in infrastruc-

ture and that future maintenance costs would push the budget above its current spending caps.

Congress, always wary of how closures will affect its members' constituencies, has refused each time, telling the department to cut spending instead.

SEE BRAC ON PAGE 6

Priest tells of kamikaze pilot training during WWII

By CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HANSEN, Okinawa — Paul Saneaki Nakamura prepared three times to carry out a suicide attack for Japan during World War II. It took the country's near-death for him to find religion and become a priest.

Nakamura recently shared his experiences—which included training as a kamikaze pilot, human torpedo and suicide bomber—with about 300 Marines at Camp Hansen to help them see war from a different perspective.

"I have always thought that my experience might be well compared to the historical Exodus," he said, referring to the biblical story of the Jews who left Egypt, led by Moses to the Promised Land.

The 87-year-old retired Anglican bishop grew up on Okinawa as militarism swept across Japan. Like many others, he became an ultra-nationalist who firmly believed in selfless devotion to his country. He worshipped the emperor as god, offering his life to the emperor was the ultimate virtue.

When he was in middle school, World War II had spread to the Pacific theater following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Students were taught how to use a rifle, targeting a straw figure of an American, he said.

War propaganda flooded the news with the imperial army's victories, especially in China, he said.

"We were convinced that the Japanese army with its great success was god's army with a special divine favor," he said.

In the final stages of the war, however, it was clear that Japan was fighting a losing battle, so special suicide corps were organized. Some dive-bombed enemy ships.

The first such attack was carried out in October 1944 over the Philippines' Leyte Gulf.

SEE PRIEST ON PAGE 7

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Essentially, we're asking them to award a contract to a company where they are probably not going to get a job, against a company where their friends are. So they've got to go against their friends, and their future retirement program."

— Founder Elon Musk on SpaceX's dispute with the Air Force over bidding for a lucrative contract to launch military satellites

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COMING SOON

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auto show



WAR ON TERRORISM

Japan stunned by video claiming death of hostage

By YURI KAGEYAMA
The Associated Press

TOKYO — From the prime minister to ordinary people, Japanese were shocked Sunday at a video purportedly showing one of two Japanese hostages of the extremist Islamic State group had been killed.

With attention focused on efforts to save the other hostage, some also criticized Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's drive for a more assertive Japan as responsible for the hostage crisis.

A somber Abe appeared on public broadcaster NHK early Sunday demanding the militants release journalist Kenji Goto, 47, unharmed. He said the video was likely authentic, although he added that the government was still reviewing it. He offered condolences to the family and friends of Haruna Yukawa, 42, an adventurer taken hostage in Syria last year.

Abe declined to comment on the message in the video, which demanded a prisoner exchange for Goto. He said only that the government was still working on the situation and reiterated that Japan condemns terrorism.

"I am left speechless," he said.

"We strongly and totally criticize such acts."

Yukawa's father, Shoichi, told reporters he hoped "deep in his heart" that the news of his son's killing was not true.

"If I am ever reunited with him, I just want to give him a big hug," he said.

President Barack Obama condemned what he called "the brutal murder" of Yukawa and offered condolences to Abe. Obama's statement didn't say how the U.S. knew Yukawa was dead.

"The U.S. intelligence community has no reason to doubt the authenticity of the video," said Brian Hale, spokesman for the U.S. director of national intelligence.

On a visit to India, Obama said the United States will stand "shoulder to shoulder" with Japan and called for the immediate release of Goto.

French President Francois Hollande also condemned the killing and praised Japan's "determined engagement in the fight against international terrorism."

The Associated Press could not verify the contents of the video message, which was removed from websites soon after it appeared and varied greatly from previous videos released by the



Koji SASAHARA/AP

An anti-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe demonstrator holds a sign during a rally Sunday in front of Abe's official residence in Tokyo.

Islamic State group, which now holds a third of both Syria and Iraq.

Criticism of Abe has touched on his push for an expanded role for Japan's troops — one that has remained strictly confined to self-defense under the pacifist constitution written after the nation's defeat in World War II.

About 100 protesters, some of them holding placards that read, "I'm Kenji" and "Free Goto," demonstrated late Sunday in front of the prime minister's residence, demanding that Abe save Goto.

Demonstrator Kenji Kunitomi, 66, blamed Abe for bringing the hostage crisis on himself.

"This happened when Prime Minister Abe was visiting Israel," he said. "I think there's a side to this, where they may have taken it as a form of provocation, possibly a big one."

While in the Middle East, Abe announced \$200 million in humanitarian aid to the nations fighting the militants. The Islamic State group addressed Abe

and demanded the same amount of money as ransom for the two hostages.

Jun Hori, an independent journalist, bemoaned Abe's directly mentioning the Islamic State in announcing the aid.

Reflecting widely held sentiments here, Hori believes Japan, restricted by its constitution, has held a slightly different position from the U.S. and Europe on the Middle East, and had up to now fared better at avoiding Western-style terrorist attacks.

"Japan has its own path of peaceful diplomacy that it should take," Hori said.

Goto's mother, Junko Ishido, was skeptical about the voice on the video claiming to be her son's.

"I'm petrified," Ishido told NHK. "He has children. I'm praying he will return soon, and that's all I want."

Yukawa was captured last summer, and Goto is thought to have been seized in late October after going to Syria to try to rescue Yukawa.

Obama: Counterterrorism operations in Yemen not affected

The Associated Press

President Barack Obama says the political vacuum in Yemen hasn't affected U.S. counterterrorism operations inside the Middle Eastern country.

Speaking on Sunday in New Delhi during an appearance with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said that news reports to the contrary are inaccurate.

"We continue to go after high-

value targets inside of Yemen and continue to maintain the pressure that's required to keep the American people safe," he said.

Yemen was thrown into a state of political turmoil last week after Shiite rebels overran the capital and President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and his ministers resigned. Hadi had worked with the U.S. in the fight against terrorism. Washington says Yemen is

the base of operations for the most dangerous offshoot of al-Qaida.

Also on Sunday, rebels occupying Yemen's capital dispersed a handful of demonstrators protesting against them, firing automatic rifles into the air, breaking journalists' cameras and scuffling with the crowd while detaining 11 people.

The march came a day after much larger rallies across the

country that involved tens of thousands of people opposing the rebels, known as Houthis, amid a power vacuum in the country.

At another protest on Sunday in Sanaa, about 200 demonstrators gathered in Change Square for a march toward the presidential palace. The square was the birthplace of Yemen's 2011 uprising against longtime autocrat Ali Abdullah Saleh.

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MILITARY

A-10 backlash stirs free speech debate

General's 'treason' comment sparks concerns over servicemember rights

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Maj. Gen. James Post raised eyebrows this month when he warned fellow airmen in Nevada that talking to Congress about the embattled A-10 Thunderbolt could qualify as treason.

"If anyone accuses me of saying this, I will deny it ... anyone who is passing information to Congress about A-10 capabilities is committing treason," Post told an audience of officers at Nellis Air Force Base according to the military blog John Q. Public.

The Air Force has brushed off the statement as hyperbole but confirmed Friday the inspector general has opened an investigation.

The two-star general's warning comes at a delicate time for the Warthog. The service is facing an internal backlash from airmen who want to keep the close-air-support aircraft and another uphill budget battle with Congress over the retirement. The blog said it corroborated the quote through senior officials and several other sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Experts said the statement was meant to quash disagreement within the Air Force over phasing out the A-10 and push the plans by leadership. Whether Post's method was inappropriate or trampled the rights of servicemembers depends on one's point of view.

"Just to the lay person who has never been in the military, it would seem to have a chilling effect" on protected speech among troops, said Larry Youngner, who served as an Air Force judge advocate for 20 years and is now a managing partner in the Virginia law firm Tully Rinckey. "Most of the A-10 pilots I've known in the past would take it as a challenge ... They are so proud of the accomplishments of the A-10 they would take it as an opportunity. It would embolden them to contact Congress."

Post is the vice commander of the Air Combat Command, which oversees A-10 air wings and close-air-support units. Federal and military law give all servicemembers the right to communicate with congressional representatives through official and private channels, though they are not to use their service or rank to

endorse partisan political causes or campaigns.

"I love that platform. That said, if I'm for it or against it, I have the unfettered right to contact Sen. Lindsey Graham in South Carolina and tell him about my support of that aircraft," Youngner said.

He said most airmen understand their rights, and concern over Post's comments is likely overblown.

"It would appear to me he was advocating a policy decision and the way he approached it, frankly, wasn't the best way to approach it," Youngner said. "He is a fighter pilot. He is blunt and direct and probably said it in a way that was consistent with his upbringing."

"In his defense, it was so outrageous that he couldn't have been serious."

The Air Combat Command put out a statement saying the reference to treason was "hyperbole" meant to underscore an important point.

"While subsequent government debate will continue at the highest levels ... our job as airmen is to continue to execute our mission and duties," the written statement said. "Certainly our role as individual military members is not to engage in public debate or advocacy for policy."

But mention of treason should not be taken lightly, especially by a high-ranking military officer talking about servicemembers' right to contact their representatives, said Eugene R. Fidell, who teaches military justice at Yale University and served as a judge advocate in the Coast Guard.

"Maybe it is being blown out of proportion, but there is a problem there," Fidell said. "You are playing with fire when you tell members of the services that they better not get in touch with members of the Congress."

He said the military has a strict hierarchy that means lower-ranking members listen closely to what superiors say and do. Statements like the one made by Post have to be heeded.

"The danger is it can have a chilling effect beyond what is needed for an orderly workforce, and it can deprive Congress of valuable information," Fidell said.

Maj. Pete Hughes, an Air Force spokesman, said Friday that the service's independent watchdog is looking into the matter after urging by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

"The Air Force Inspector General's Office is conducting a thorough, timely, investigation into the allegations against Major General Post and is actively engaged in determining the facts of the matter in the most expeditious manner possible," he wrote



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

An A-10 Warthog is shown in flight during a NATO Operation Allied Force combat mission.



"He is a fighter pilot. He is blunt and direct and probably said it in a way that was consistent with his upbringing. In his defense, it was so outrageous that he couldn't have been serious."

Larry Youngner
former Air Force judge advocate

"Maybe it is being blown out of proportion, but there is a problem there. You are playing with fire when you tell members of the services that they better not get in touch with members of the Congress."

Eugene R. Fidell
military justice teacher at Yale University



in an email to Stars and Stripes.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., said she was "disturbed" by the treason comment and said U.S. law protects the right of servicemembers to speak to lawmakers.

"How could members of the armed forces exercising their lawful right to communicate with Congress be providing aid and comfort to our enemies?" she said in a statement. "If the facts are on the Air Force's side regarding

its efforts to prematurely divest the A-10, what does the Air Force fear?"

The Air Force proposed the retirement of the A-10, known for its belching nose cannon, last year. Powerful lawmakers such as McCain and retired Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif., came out against the move but eventually suffered a minor loss in December when Congress gave the service some leeway to decrease

maintenance and flying hours.

The debate is set to come roaring back in the coming weeks as the 2016 defense budget begins to be hammered out.

The Air Force, along with the rest of the Defense Department, is hashing out its budget strategy now. Hearings on Capitol Hill are expected to begin next month.

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MILITARY

Defendant testifies in killing of broadcaster

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver testified Friday that he did not plan to kill Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov but that he did plan to dump the body when he suspected the sailor might be dead.

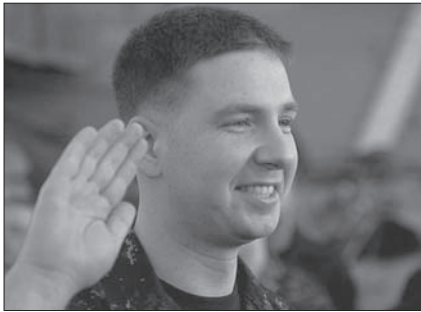
Oliver, a technician for the American Forces Network, took the stand in his own defense at the end of the second week of his court-martial. He has pleaded not guilty to charges of premeditated murder and other offenses in the strangulation of Chepusov.

During nearly six hours of questioning, Oliver contradicted previous statements he had made to German and U.S. investigators, but said he had lied initially to protect himself and others from prosecution. He said the version of events relayed by Army Pvt. Cody Kramer, who testified against Oliver as a witness for the prosecution as part of his own plea agreement, was not true. Kramer pleaded guilty at his own court-martial in October to making false official statements.

In her opening statement for the defense, Capt. Kyra Palmer said that Oliver "feels it's important to tell you what really happened."

"As you may have gathered, there's much more to this story," Palmer said.

Oliver testified that after a night out drinking in Kaiserslautern on Dec. 13, 2013, he, Chepusov, Kramer, Staff Sgt. Thomas Skinkle and Staff Sgt. Shao-Lung Ping all went to Skinkle's downtown apartment. In the kitchen, Oliver said, Kramer resumed an argument with Chepusov that had



Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov, a military broadcaster, was found strangled to death in the passenger seat of a car during a traffic stop in Germany in December 2013.

begun earlier in the evening.

Oliver testified that Kramer snatched Chepusov in the head with an empty whiskey bottle, knocking him out cold. Oliver said the blow was the only thing that could have cut Chepusov's ear, which bled over parts of the kitchen, the foyer and the bathroom — where Oliver said he dragged Chepusov to hide the altercation from Ping. Kramer, meanwhile, had gone into the living room. Oliver said that when Ping decided to determine if he'd seen anything, After Ping left, Oliver said, he "dressed down" Kramer for hitting Chepusov.

"I wanted to let him know it wasn't OK" and he might "be getting in a lot of trouble," Oliver

testified.

This version was far different from what he told investigators and was also at odds with the testimony of both Ping and Kramer. Ping testified that he saw Oliver kick Chepusov twice while the sailor was laid out on Skinkle's kitchen floor. Kramer testified that Oliver confided to him, as Ping was leaving, that Chepusov was "D-E-A-D dead. Dead dead."

Ping testified that he overheard part of that exchange, which he recounted in similar terms.

Oliver testified that Chepusov was alive when Ping left.

After dressing down Kramer, Oliver testified, he attempted to rouse Chepusov, who eventually came to. "He asked me what was going on."

Oliver said he lied to Chepusov and told him he'd fallen and hit his head. Chepusov, he said, wasn't buying it.

Oliver said he offered to drive Chepusov home, and the sailor accepted, then told Oliver that when he got home he was going to have sex with his estranged wife — who was staying at their shared home that night — "whether she wants to or not."

Chepusov's wife, Karla Alejandra Zolezzi, was in a sexual relationship with Oliver that began the previous month, both she and Oliver have testified. Oliver said Zolezzi had stayed with him for four nights straight before then. While they were having a sexual relationship, Oliver said, it was "casual," not "romantic."

Still, Chepusov's claim that he would have sex with Zolezzi whether she wanted to or not, which Oliver said Chepusov repeated, caused him to snap.

Oliver said he grabbed Chepusov and drove him into the floor, landing on top of him. He said it took him a while to get a hold on Chepusov's throat. "It was a lot of effort to actually do it," he said. He squeezed for 10 to 15 seconds, he testified, and stopped when he thought Chepusov was knocked unconscious.

Oliver said he wanted to knock Chepusov out, not to kill him, and thought the sailor was still alive. He testified that he moved Chepusov to the bathroom again, then took Skinkle's keys, left the apartment and drove himself home. He said he left to let Kramer deal with the mess because he'd started it.

Oliver testified that he felt guilty and later returned to Skinkle's and woke Kramer for help

carrying Chepusov to his car. He said he planned to drive Chepusov home.

Prosecuting attorney Lt. Col. Brian Thompson asked Oliver why he would drive Chepusov home after the AFN broadcaster earlier had threatened to "rape" Zolezzi. Oliver testified that after he had cooled off, that he realized Chepusov was just trying to "get under my skin."

Oliver said he and Kramer were in the hallway of Skinkle's apartment building when he first realized Chepusov might be dead. He said he told Kramer his suspicion but didn't try to confirm it "because I didn't want it to be true."

Nevertheless, he said, he decided to dispose of Chepusov's body.

After putting Chepusov into his car, he said he went back up to Skinkle's apartment to get towels and bath mats on which Chepusov had bled, while Kramer grabbed a bottle of cleaner Oliver had used earlier to clean up blood and two empty whiskey bottles. The two men stashed all of the items in the backseat of Oliver's car, Oliver testified.

Oliver said he set his car's GPS to the farthest destination he had pre-programmed and started driving. He said he was in "panic mode" and planned to dump the body, possibly in the woods near the destination on his GPS.

According to German police who testified earlier, they pulled him over about 50 yards from the entrance to Vogelweh military housing. Oliver had driven about 3 miles.

Oliver's court-martial is scheduled to resume Monday, when the defense may call more witnesses.

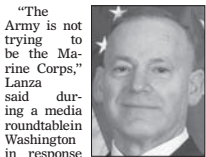
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I Corps commander: 'Army is not trying to be the Marine Corps'

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

The Pacific rebalance requires all the military services and their capabilities, and the Army has increased its presence in the Pacific "exponentially" in the past year, the commander of I Corps told reporters Friday.

Lt. Gen. Stephen Lanza, commander of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord-based I Corps, said the unit is spread throughout the Pacific and is "truly part of the rebalance" and the whole-of-government strategy.



Lanza

"The Army is not trying to be the Marine Corps," Lanza said during a media roundtable in Washington in response to questions about the similarity of the "Pacific Pathways" deployment program to Marine Corps deployments and operations.

"When you have a holistic strategy in the Pacific, you need all enabling capabilities," Lanza said. "And, really, you have to come at rebalance from a joint perspective."

The demands in the Pacific exceed any one service's abilities, Lanza said, and the Army can bring unique capabilities to the region, including engineer brigades, civil affairs, medical brigades and aviation.

For example, he said, when a major typhoon hit the Philippines in 2013, the Marines responded immediately and the Army came

in later for sustainment and logistical support.

"That's the kind of relationship we have," he said. "It's really not a contentious issue. It's that we're not going to fight as a single service anymore."

Other demands in the region include air and missile defense and cybersecurity threats, he said.

As resources and funding dwindle, Lanza said, there will be an even greater need for services to work together.

So far, I Corps has been given the resources it needs and is "truly executing our portion of

the rebalance," Lanza said, focusing on stabilization, security and relationship building. Those relationships are critical to build trust not just between the individuals and services but also between countries, he said.

But the services will need continued support to sustain the presence and interoperability, he said.

"You have to be present," Lanza said. "You have to be forward of the timeline."

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MILITARY



Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, introduces the SpaceX Dragon V2 spaceship at the SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, Calif., in May.

Joe C. Hwang/AP

SpaceX startup settles its lawsuit against Air Force

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

SpaceX, Elon Musk's start-up space company, announced on Friday that it would drop its lawsuit against the Air Force protesting the award of a lucrative contract to launch military satellites.

In a joint statement, the Air Force and SpaceX said that the California-based company agreed to drop the suit because the Air Force "has expanded the number of competitive opportunities for launch services."

SpaceX filed the suit in the Court of Federal Claims in spring of last year, arguing that the contract, which was awarded to the United Launch Alliance, should have been competitively bid.

The announcement comes after months of acrimony between the parties. Musk, the billionaire founder of Tesla and PayPal, had

accused the Air Force of improperly awarding a sole-source contract and said it was taking too long to certify his company for the launches.

SpaceX had hoped that it would be certified by the end of last year. Earlier this month, the Air Force said that was not likely to happen until the middle of this year.

In an interview with Bloomberg Business Week, Musk accused military procurement officials of holding up the certification to curry favor with the ULA, the joint venture of defense contracting giants Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

"Essentially we're asking them to award a contract to a company where they are probably not going to get a job, against a company where their friends are," he said. "So they've got to go against their friends, and their future retirement program. This is a difficult thing to expect."

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James called his remarks "rather unfortunate" and said the service was working diligently to get SpaceX certified for the launches. She also appointed retired Gen. Larry Welch, a former chief of staff, to lead an independent review of the certification process, which would explore whether there are "ways that we can streamline, speed it up, do things a little bit differently."

In the joint statement, the parties said that "under the agreement, the Air Force will work collaboratively with SpaceX to complete the certification process in an efficient and expedient manner."

The multibillion-dollar contract is for 36 rockets to launch defense payloads, including satellites. By 2030, the Pentagon expects to spend almost \$70 billion on the program.

High-value Guantanamo detainees call home for the first time in nearly a decade

By JULIE TATE
AND MISSY RYAN
The Washington Post

For almost a decade, the 15 detainees considered to be the most dangerous at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have been locked in a special top-security facility, deprived of some of the privileges granted to other prisoners, such as communal living, live television and periodic calls with their families.

Now, as the Pentagon moves to improve prisoner conditions, officials have allowed several "high-value" inmates to make Skype-like video calls to speak with their families for the first time since they were brought to Guantanamo Bay from secret CIA prisons overseas.

Officials have imposed strict

security restrictions on the calls, monitoring both sides' statements to ensure no classified information is divulged, making for a disruptive experience that in one case stretched a 30-minute conversation to four hours.

The tightly controlled concession reflects not only ongoing sensitivity about information the prisoners, some of them charged with plotting the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, might divulge, but also unresolved disputes about the detainees' most basic rights.

Anna Nelson, a spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said the ICRC facilitated video conversations for two detainees on Jan. 17 and 18.

"We believe that in situations of prolonged detention, family contact enables detainees to

maintain their sense of human dignity," Nelson said.

A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss prison operations, confirmed the calls took place in "near real-time" and were subject to security screening.

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Another firm cuts ties with shipper of military cars

By MIKE FITZGERALD
Belleville (Ill.) News-Democrat

For the second time in a month, a key subcontractor for the company that ships military members' cars overseas has parted ways with the firm because of a payment dispute.

The upshot of North Carolina-based Fayetteville Vehicle Processing Center & Storage ending its ties with International Auto Logistics — which in late 2013 was awarded a \$1 billion contract — could mean even longer delays for IAL's already frustrated military customers around the nation.

Fayetteville Vehicle Processing Center, or VPC, which specializes in the storage of privately owned vehicles, was one of the original 10 subcontractors that International Auto Logistics had listed in its bid to win the contract from the U.S. Transportation Command, which is based at Scott Air Force Base.

IAL, of Brunswick, Ga., parted ways with Fayetteville VPC because the latter had complained about \$4.2 million in unpaid bills owed by IAL for the storage of thousands of cars, according to Terry Johnson, owner of Fayetteville VPC.

"They are basing their termination on slow pay for the employees, slow pay for the vendors," Johnson said, adding that his firm's failure to pay its employees and vendors was a direct result of IAL's nonpayment for services provided.

Amanda Nunez, an IAL spokeswoman, declined to comment for this story.

"Both parties are subject to a mutual non-disclosure agreement, therefore we cannot comment further," according to a statement Nunez issued to the News-Democrat.

In late December, another of IAL's top subcontractors announced it was terminating its relationship with IAL by early 2015 because of IAL's performance and payment problems, including the alleged nonpayment of \$20 million in fees.

Liberty Global Logistics LLC, of Lake Success, N.Y., which coordinates ocean cargo ships,

exercised its termination rights with IAL "due to the prime contractor's failure to cure contract defaults," according to Robert G. Wellner, Liberty's executive vice president.

Gen. Paul Selva, the commander of Transcom, which oversees the IAL contract, declined to comment Friday about IAL's latest pay dispute with a contractor.

Nor would Selva discuss the Feb. 1 deadline he had set for IAL to present a plan for avoiding the delays and glitches that plagued the company when it took over the car shipment contract on May 1, the start of the peak vehicle shipping season.

Navy Cmdr. David Nunnally, a Transcom spokesman, issued a statement Friday stating that the command has "every confidence IAL will submit their 2015 plan before the Feb. 1 deadline as U.S. Transcom has requested."

Service members' complaints about late deliveries and damaged vehicles have been pouring into Transcom since IAL took over the contract. The complaints have continued despite measures taken to deal with the firm's problems, including the creation of a 12-member "fusion team" of logistics and supply-chain experts to pinpoint and untangle the problems behind IAL's vehicle delivery delays.

Selva announced in late August that he had directed site survey teams to visit vehicle processing centers around the globe to look for missing cars entrusted to IAL.

Transcom reported four weeks later that the on-time delivery of military member' privately owned cars had improved dramatically. Nonetheless, many military members continued to complain, especially those who had entrusted their cars to IAL before Aug. 1 and were still waiting to see them two months later.

In mid-December, the Department of Defense Inspector General's office announced it would send an audit team to Scott by the end of that month to look at performance complaints concerning IAL.

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MILITARY

USAREUR looks eastward for sites for tanks

By JOHN VANDIVER
AND MICHAEL DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

U.S. Army Europe will soon dispatch a survey team to eastern Europe to scout locations for tanks and other military hardware as part of a broader effort to bolster the U.S. military presence in a region rattled by Russia's intervention in Ukraine, the Army's top commander in Europe said Friday.

"We are doing surveys here in the next few weeks up in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria to see if there is a place where perhaps some of that equipment could be stored there," USAREUR chief Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said during an interview with Stars and Stripes. "Maybe it's a company, maybe it's a whole battalion; we don't know yet until we do the survey."

In 2015, the Army expects to rotate a full-sized, U.S.-based heavy brigade of some 3,000 troops and additional tanks and other armored vehicles through Europe in connection with the service's Regionally Aligned Force initiative. Last year, the program kicked off on a smaller scale, bringing combat tanks back into Europe after a brief absence following the elimination of two Germany-based heavy brigades in 2013. Now, the regional concept is picking up steam, with

plans for 220 armored vehicles in Europe.

"The big question for us right now is 'where are they going to go?' Obviously, a part is going to stay here," Hodges said, referring to the Grafenwöhr training area. "We really want to put some in southeastern Europe, some in the Baltics, some in Poland. Those countries want them bad — an obvious reason; they're a deterrent aspect."

Once the surveys are concluded, a formal recommendation will be submitted to European Command chief Gen. Philip Breedlove, Hodges said. That will happen sometime in February.

In the meantime, the challenge is finding places to store all the inbound heavy gear. Initially, the regional brigade concept called for forward-positioning enough equipment to support a battalion rotating through Europe at any given time. Hodges' plan calls for expanding those "European Activity Sets" to the brigade level, making it easier for larger elements to move into and out of Europe for training missions.

"The European Activity Set is growing, obviously," Hodges said. "The ultimate EAS will include the full armored brigade combat team, three maneuver battalions, a reconnaissance squadron, artillery, engineers and all that. That's probably about 220 armored vehicles, tanks, Bradleys."



MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Army Europe commander Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, left, and British Maj. Gen. David Cullen, right, speak to troops Friday at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany. Both Hodges and Cullen were on hand to observe portions of the Allied Spirit 1 interoperability training exercise.

Hodges expects all the heavy armor equipment to be in place by the end of 2015.

"Some of it is already here now, in fact, its right at Grafenwöhr," he said.

Meanwhile, USAREUR for a time could hold on to at least one site that it previously had planned to turn over to the Germans — Coleman Barracks in Mannheim, which has the potential to be used as a temporary storage site until permanent locations are found in the east, according to USAREUR.

Hodges, who was at the Army's sprawling training center in Hohenfels, Germany, on Friday to observe U.S. soldiers working alongside Canadian, British, Dutch and Hungarian troops, said

the Army plan to rotate a heavy brigade through Europe comes at a crucial time. The latest rotational brigade bound for Europe — the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division — fits into an overall European Command strategy that aims to deter Russian aggression, reassure allies in the east and strengthen training partnerships with allies, Hodges said.

Europe-based troops also continue to play a key role. In the spring, the Vicenza, Italy-based 173rd Airborne Brigade will deploy a battalion into western Ukraine to train the country's national guard and Defense Ministry personnel in a range of tactics, Hodges said.

For nearly a year, Ukrainian

forces have been at war with Russia-backed separatists in the country's east. While Moscow has denied sending troops into Ukraine or providing heavy weapons, Hodges said there are numerous signs of Russian involvement.

"Hundreds of armored vehicles, rocket launchers and UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) that are being provided, either employed by Russians or by their proxies in the eastern Ukraine," Hodges said.

"The sky is full of Russian UAVs and they are immediately finding all the Ukrainian formations, and [the Ukrainians] are suffering huge casualties from artillery, rockets."

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BRAC: Analyst says cuts in Europe should give DOD leverage with Congress

FROM FRONT PAGE

In a January 2014 funding bill, legislators required a military review of all installations in Europe.

The results announced this month include plans to close 15 installations and to reshuffle several units, moves that would save an estimated \$500 million after up-front expenses. That follows another series of cuts announced in May, which total \$60 million in estimated annual savings.

Days after the latest announcement, acting DOD installations director John Conger directed the department again would push for BRAC in its next defense funding request.

Ray DuBois, former DOD installations director during the 2005 BRAC and current analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the European cuts should give the DOD more leverage, although some in Congress may have envisioned

broadier changes, with some units returning stateside. Troop levels in Europe are expected to remain at roughly 67,000, partly due to escalating tensions with Russia over Ukraine.

Plain politics, and the mood of the new Congress, will determine whether it will agree on a BRAC at some point, DuBois said. "Whether or not this Congress, which just convened, is inclined to give this president and the next secretary of defense, Ashton Carter, a domestic BRAC is still doubtful," he said. "But there's no question that without a European realignment plan, and execution, there would be no appetite to do it."

New leadership at the armed services committees, the starting point for every defense budget, likely will play a major role in the issue. Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, has been a vocal opponent of BRAC for several years as a commit-

tee member. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who has assumed chairmanship of the Senate committee, has had less to say about BRAC, focusing instead on national security policy regarding Iraq, Syria and Ukraine.

As defense funding gets squeezed beginning in fiscal 2016, when sequestration budget caps return, many say the committees will no longer be able to avoid the issue.

Advocates of a BRAC say domestic closures could free between \$2 billion and \$3 billion in annual funding, although only after several years of up-front costs. Opponents counter that those expenses, estimated at \$1.6 billion annually for five years — are ill-avoided at a time of strapped budgets. They also point to the last round of BRAC, in 2005, which cost more than \$36 billion, considerably higher than planned.

DuBois and others say the 2005 BRAC was inflated by new mili-

tary construction piggybacked onto the total. Hale said the long-term money saved is worth any up-front investment, considering the budget challenges in years ahead.

"I think it recognizes you need to spend a modest amount now to save a good amount later," Hale said.

A future BRAC would begin in 2017 at the earliest, according to past defense requests.

There may be budding support for the base closure process among some military communities. The specter of sequestration and planned manpower reductions across the services, particularly in the Army, are creating uncertainty, said Tim Ford, CEO of the lobbying group American Defense Communities, which represents more than 250 towns, cities and states that have nearby military installations or units.

Member communities know something is coming but feel they can't do anything about it

until the details become clearer, he said. A BRAC process allows members to offer input, to defend their interests and to plan ahead for the worst-case scenario.

"I think where our communities are right now is we need to figure out a better way to manage this," Ford said. "BRAC gives us a better way to follow this, give our input, understand it better."

Ford said the planned cuts in Europe only add to the sense that BRAC is inevitable in the near future, if not this session. He believes that as Senate Armed Services chairman, McCain, in particular, will give the issue a practical look as the budget process moves ahead.

"We don't want BRAC," Ford said. "In an ideal situation, we wouldn't face any of this. We wouldn't face sequestration. But we live in the reality Congress created, and that reality is cuts are occurring."

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PACIFIC

Priest: As a young kamikaze volunteer, man 'had the faith of a martyr'

FROM FRONT PAGE

The desperate operations killed thousands of young men — the kamikaze pilots and the sailors aboard the vessels.

At the time, there were two categories of men in Japan, Nakamura said. Eldest sons were allowed to live to continue their family lines. The rest were expected to offer their lives to the emperor. As a second son, Nakamura was in the latter category.

In March 1944, 17-year-old Nakamura volunteered to be a kamikaze pilot and left Okinawa for the mainland for training. An airplane shortage hampered preparations, he said.

"What was provided us was a glider," with trainees forced to use their imagination for the instruments on a plane, he said.

The training focused solely on austere self-discipline, not on practical technique. After all, no skills were required except for flying straight, he said.

"We were taught that since we were such a small, island nation and because we were one country fighting against many, great sacrifices were required," he said. If one kamikaze pilot could blow up a vessel carrying hundreds of sailors, he would be a hero and, more importantly, Japan could win the war, he said.

"It was [for] this conviction that many young men were willing and desiring to serve their country," he said.

He still vividly remembers the last words of a comrade: "You can have my dinner tonight" — before he took off for a kamikaze mission. It was strictly a one-way trip; no fuel was loaded for a return flight. Nakamura and his fellow trainees drank water together with him from a sake cup, a Japanese ritual to see someone off for his final parting.



Courtesy of Tyler S. Giguere

Paul Saneaki Nakamura, 87, a retired bishop of the Anglican Church Japan, sits with his audience of Marines at Camp Hansen recently.

Before Nakamura's turn for a final drink came, the imperial navy ran out of airplanes for the operation. But other opportunities loomed.

The special suicide corps also consisted of suicide motorboats and human torpedoes. Nakamura was chosen for the latter. The one-man submarine had no escape hatch, once you went in, there was no way to get out, he said.

"Let me say that this was of no consequence because it was a way that I could serve," he said. "I had the faith of a martyr."

But human torpedoes also ran out before his turn came, so he was chosen to be a suicide bomb-

er. He was sent to Sasebo, where he was taught to dig a hole, to hide with a bomb strapped around his body and to wait for an enemy tank to come. "I dug many holes and waited for my turn to come," he said.

Before that happened, the war ended.

He was discharged from the imperial army, but there was no way to return to Okinawa. Inflation quickly set in, and his money became almost useless. "I became a beggar on the street," he said.

He spent many nights on a railroad station bench. Hunger tortured him, but finding a job was not easy when the entire country

was devastated.

"I must admit that I really longed for my previous life, when I was in the imperial army," he said, where there was no freedom, but he had food, warm clothes and a place to sleep.

"You remember when the Israelis were wandering in the desert, they were always longing to return to Egypt," he said. "At that time of my life, in despair and loneliness, I lost my dignity as a human being."

His only hope was to reunite with his parents, who were safe in Taiwan. To please them, he decided to go to college at night and pay for tuition with a day job. He was 19.

He also began to go to church, where the warm, friendly people made him feel at home.

"My earlier desire of wanting to return to the kamikaze and the imperial army was no longer with me," he said.

During a class discussion one day, other students argued that the emperor system allowed Japan to remain as a unified nation after the war, unlike Germany, Korea or Vietnam.

Anger and shock ran through him because no one seemed to be aware that Okinawa had been severed from the rest of Japan after WWII. Until that moment, he never had doubted his identity as a full-fledged Japanese.

"I could not stay in the classroom," he said. Tears welled up and he found himself running to and from the priest. The priest cried with him and told him that Japan was dead, because if you could not feel the pain when your little finger was cut off, it meant that your body was dead.

"Then he told me to restore a priest to help Japan to become a life, like Jesus restored Lazarus to life four days after his death,"

he said.

Soon afterward, Nakamura entered a theological school.

When he finally returned to Okinawa, he found that all of the eldest sons who had stayed there were killed in the Battle of Okinawa. Survivor's guilt bitterly tormented him.

Then he discovered that American occupation forces were not "demons," as war propaganda had taught him. Instead, they provided food, supplies and medical care to his people.

After becoming a priest, he went on a missionary trip throughout Japan, urging people to come back to life through Jesus Christ.

When he looks back, he sees God's hand in his life, he said.

"Possibly in some strange way that I could not understand, God had spared my life, as he had a plan for my life," he said.

While hearing about war experiences might not be rare for the Marines who hear Nakamura speak, listening to an account from the other side of the war was stirring for some.

"It is interesting to learn that kamikazes' mission was solely to attack the United States," said Cpl. Gabriel Estrada, 20, of Los Angeles. "Also, it is amazing for his big change in life from an attacker to now a bishop."

Sgt. Alan Wolthecker, 24, of Tampa, Fla., heard war stories from his grandfather, who fought in the Pacific theater as a merchant marine. He was only 10 to 12 years old at the time and didn't understand, he said.

As a Marine who has served in Afghanistan, he found Nakamura's experience very inspiring.

"Now his story made me feel more close to what he has accomplished," he said.

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USS Ranger to be scrapped despite interest in saving carrier

By HUGH LESSIG

(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press

A California group wants the Navy to reverse course on the USS Ranger, an aircraft carrier that proved itself in battle, starred in Hollywood and is now destined for scrapyard.

Top Gun Super Carrier of Long Beach Inc. has secured \$14 million in pledges and has contacted members of Congress to try to save the ship, said project manager Michael B. Shanahan. Its campaign has spread to social media and an online petition at change.org.

A few years ago, a previous group tried to raise money to save the ship, which was built in Newport News, Va., but fell well short of its goal. Shanahan said his group has major corporate backing and is working on the logistical hurdles of parking the ship in Long Beach, Calif.

"We're for real," he said recently in a phone interview.

But so is the dismantling contract between the Navy and International Shipbreaking of Brownsville, Texas.

Under terms of a deal announced in December, the Navy will pay the company exactly 1 cent to tow the ship from Bremerton, Wash., around South America. The trip to Texas is expected to last four to five months.

As the group's name suggests, the Ranger appeared in the hit film "Top Gun" starring Tom Cruise. It also had a cameo in "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home," where it served as a stand-in for the USS Enterprise — the carrier, not the starship.

More to the point, the Ranger proved its mettle in combat, earning 13 battle stars for service in Vietnam. In January 1991, it was among the flotilla that launched airstrikes in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The third Forrestal-class carrier to be built, the Ranger was decommissioned in 1993. It was the only Forrestal-class ship to spend its entire career in the Pacific.

After decommissioning, it was kept for potential future reactivation until stricken from the Naval Vessel Register in 2004 and was redesignated for donation. For

the next eight years, the Navy made the ship available, said Chris Johnson, a spokesman for Naval Sea Systems Command.

One group, the USS Ranger Foundation, expressed interest.

"Unfortunately, that organization was only able to raise \$105,000 of their estimated \$32 million in startup costs," Johnson said in an email to the Daily Press. "Because we're not able to keep ships in storage indefinitely, the Navy removed the ship from donation hold in 2012 and awarded the scrapping contract in December 2014."

"We are not entertaining any additional offers, and we have no plan to return the ship to donation hold," he said. "We expect the ship will be removed by the scrapping contractor in February."

Shanahan's group has offered to donate money so the Navy can keep the carrier in Bremerton while plans are finalized. Johnson said the Navy can't accept private money for an inherently military purpose.

"It is not accurate when the or-

ganization says they have funds available to keep the ship in storage," Johnson said.

Johnson also pointed out that putting the Ranger in Long Beach would compete with the battleship Iowa museum 6 miles away in San Pedro and the aircraft carrier Midway museum 100 miles away in San Diego.

Shanahan said his group envisions the ship as a self-sustaining commercial attraction.

The Navy preferred to see the ship converted into a memorial or a museum, which is why it was

available for eight years, Johnson said. When the previous effort fell through, the Navy decided it was time to move on.

It costs taxpayers \$100,000 to \$200,000 per year to store the aircraft carrier, including security, fire and flooding protection and periodic exterior maintenance to keep paint from falling into the water.

"Unfortunately, we are not able to keep ships in storage forever, and so we had no choice but to move forward with this contract," Johnson said.

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NATION

State bills seek to limit gay rights

GOP effort comes with high court soon to rule on same-sex marriage

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A Texas lawmaker would strip the salaries from government officials who honor same-sex marriage licenses.

Other states would protect government officials who opt out of performing gay nuptials.

In Georgia, where lawmakers are considering a bill that critics fear could allow businesses to discriminate against gay customers, the former head of the country's largest Protestant denomination recently urged lawmakers to reign in "erotic liberty."

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in May and could decide by June whether gay couples can marry, and national opinion polls show U.S. voters increasingly opposed to gay rights. Yet lawmakers in a handful of states are backing longshot

legislation targeting gay rights, doubling down on the culture wars. Most, if not all, of the efforts are led by Republicans.

The bills are more political theater than serious policy. Few seem to have widespread support among lawmakers, and senior Republicans are not adopting these efforts as their own. In Georgia, well-funded business groups oppose them. Still, the legislation remains popular with vocal and organized voting blocks in states or parts of the states where they've been proposed.

"On no issue during my 40-year career have opinions moved as rapidly as they have on the issue of the morality of gay relationships and ultimately gay marriage," said Whit Ayres, a Republican consultant for Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, Tennessee

Gov. Bill Haslam and the National Rifle Association. "When you have conservative organizations like the U.S. military and the Boy Scouts openly accepting gay members, the debate is close to being over."

Not in Georgia. In a devotional delivered to newly convened lawmakers, the former president of the Southern Baptist Convention urged them to defend the freedom to act on religious beliefs, though he stopped short of endorsing legislation that supporters say would do precisely that.

"We are living in a society that is on a collision course with a choice between erotic liberty and religious liberty," the Rev. Bryant Wright told lawmakers. "Your role in government is about restraining sin."

This year, the toughest mea-

sure comes in Texas, where Republican state Rep. Cecil Bell has proposed stripping state and local officials of their salaries if they issue or honor same-sex marriage licenses.

Republican lawmakers in South Carolina, Virginia and Utah have proposed giving government officials or wedding celebrants the right to opt out of gay nuptials if participating violates their religious beliefs. In Georgia, the legislation would forbid the state government from infringing on a person's religious beliefs unless the government can prove it has a compelling interest.

Unlike legislation in other states, the Georgia bill makes no reference to same-sex relationships, though critics fear it would allow businesses to discriminate against gay customers.



CHARLIE NEUBERG/AP

Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin speaks during the Freedom Summit in Des Moines, Iowa, on Saturday.

Palin on run for president: 'Seriously interested'

By ROBERT COSTA
The Washington Post

DES MOINES, Iowa — Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin told The Washington Post in an interview Friday that she is "seriously interested" in running for the White House in 2016.

"You can absolutely say that I am seriously interested," Palin said, when asked to clarify her thinking about a possible presidential bid.

Palin, the GOP's 2008 vice presidential nominee, said she stood by comments she made Thursday in Las Vegas at ABC News, where she first expressed enthusiasm about potentially competing for the Republican presidential nomination.

"I am. As I said yesterday, I'm really interested in the opportunity to serve at some point," Palin said Friday, as former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, a potential 2016 rival, looked on.

Palin's comments, made in an interview in the lobby of the Marriott hotel here, came hours before she addressed a group of conservative activists at the Iowa Freedom Summit, a gathering hosted by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, an immigration hard-liner.

Palin said: "It is a significant step, of course, for anyone to publicly announce that they're interested. Who wouldn't be interested that they have been blessed with opportunities to speak about what is important to this country and for this country?"

Palin said that she is not yet ramping up a national political operation. Instead, Palin said, she is contemplating her political future and does not feel rushed to make a final decision.

At prayer rally, Jindal calls for spiritual revival

By ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN
The Washington Post

Skipping an Iowa event that drew a number of 2016 Republican presidential hopefuls in favor of a controversial Louisiana prayer rally, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal called for a national spiritual revival and urged event attendees to proselytize on behalf of their Christian beliefs.

Jindal had insisted the daylong evangelical event hosted by the American Family Association on the campus of Louisiana State University was a religious and not political gathering. His 15-minute-long remarks to the group consisted entirely of a highly personal testimony about how he had come to his Catholic beliefs. Jindal was raised by Hindu parents but converted to Catholicism in high school.

But Jindal's keynote address at the event came as he has been courting Christian conservatives in advance of a possible run for president, meeting with pastors in the early battleground states of Iowa and New Hampshire. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry hosted the same event, known as "The Response," in 2011, just before announcing he was running for president.

The event drew protests outside the basketball arena where several hundred were gathered because



JONATHAN BACHMAN/AP

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal reads from the bible during a prayer rally Saturday in Baton Rouge, La.

of accusations that the American Family Association promotes discrimination against gays and is hostile to non-Christians.

Jindal described his seven-year path to Christianity as he paced the stage in jeans, a blazer and

a TED-speech-style microphone headset. He spoke of a high school friend who had told him that he would be missed when the friend and his family went to heaven but Jindal did not. He spoke of a revelation as he watched a video about

Jesus dying on the cross.

"We can't just elect a candidate to fix what ails our country. We can't just pass a law and fix what ails our country," he said. "We need a spiritual revival to fix what ails our country."



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NATION

A \$90M debacle



KIMBERLY RODRIGUEZ, THE AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM/AP

The unfinished American Indian Cultural Center and Museum sits outside Oklahoma City.

Okla.'s hope for cashing in on Native American heritage has become stalled

BY SEAN MURPHY
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Like many states, Oklahoma wants to be a tourist destination, and leaders here believe they have an ideal attraction: Oklahoma's heritage as the U.S. Indian Territory in the 1800s and as home to 39 tribes.

But after nearly 10 years and \$90 million spent, what was to be the centerpiece for a tourism magnet, a Smithsonian-quality museum of Native American culture, has become a costly debacle that had yet to lure its first visitor and is stirring sour feelings among the Indians whose traditions would be portrayed.

Strategically located at the crossroads of two major interstates, and next to Oklahoma City's glitzy, redeveloped, downtown entertainment district, sits a modernistic complex of C-shaped buildings that is large enough to fit 30 football fields but is only half-finished and is out of money.

Another \$40 million is needed for the project, but the Legislature is balking at paying, in a head-on collision between the state's tourism ambitions and its increasingly conservative, anti-spending politics.

"The state was too aggressive here and bit off more than it could chew," said Republican Rep. Jason Murphy, one of many legislators in the GOP-controlled House who opposes more state money for the museum. "And we're paying for that mistake, but this isn't the time to double down."

Even the support of the state's Republican governor, Mary Fallin, and the state Senate and an earlier pledge of \$40 million in mostly private funds haven't



SUE OROCK/AP

An artist's rendering of what the interior of the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum would look like one day is display inside the Museum in Oklahoma City in March 2014.

broken the stalemate, which will confront the Legislature when it reconvenes next month.

In another twist, the recent swoon in oil prices may now make any appropriation harder to get, even though the price drop has underscored the need to diversify the state's energy-dependent economy.

"Our caucus has brainstormed on some different ideas, and I don't have an answer today about what that looks like," said House Speaker Jeffrey Hickman.

The vision for the Indian attraction began in the 1980s when oil prices collapsed from more than \$35 per barrel to below \$10. Oil and gas production taxes accounted for more than one-third

of the state-appropriated budget at the time.

Studies projected that a Native American cultural center could bring in up to 225,000 visitors and \$190 million annually. The Legislature approved a series of bond issues to pay for it.

The museum would weave together the stories of the dozens of tribes forced by the U.S. government to move out of the path of white expansion in other regions to the remote prairies of what is now Oklahoma. The forced removals included the notorious "Trail of Tears," in which more than 17,000 Cherokees were marched overland from their ancestral home in Georgia. An estimated 4,000 died during the trek.

Oklahoma — named after the Choctaw word for "red people" — has a story ripe for presentation to visitors, according to historians and museum experts.

"Because of the unprecedented and unequalled assemblage of Indian nations in Oklahoma, it's a very unique story and one that is national in scope," said Kevin Gover, director of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington.

The Smithsonian has offered a major loan of artifacts from its huge Native American collection.

The museum's ambitious design features several huge galleries, a multipurpose theater and a gathering space dubbed the Hall of the People. Towering, stone walls at one entrance were built with thousands of individual stones that symbolized the tribes' journeys to Oklahoma. The site includes a 90-foot-tall earthen mound visible for miles, inspired by the mound building Native Americans cultures.

But the project didn't get the federal funds its backers expected, and the Legislature, which grew more conservative in recent elections, wouldn't approve another bond issue.

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NATION

Santa Ana winds knock out power to thousands in Calif.

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Power was being restored Sunday to tens of thousands of people who lost electricity in Southern California after fierce Santa Ana winds gusting as much as 89 mph toppled trees and power poles.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power said Saturday's outages affected more than 54,000 customers — mostly in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles.

The Santa Ana winds downed numerous trees and power poles across the region. The damage included a large billboard that blew down in Burbank, while a big tree fell into the kitchen of a house in Van Nuys.

Scattered outages also left 1,700 Southern California Edison customers without power in Fontana and Ontario east of Los Angeles.

Also in Ontario, the winds helped fuel a fire at a green waste recycling facility.

Ontario Deputy Fire Chief Mike Pelletier said crews were working through the night to ensure that the blaze was contained to the property.

No one was injured and just a barn and two sheds were dam-

aged. Pelletier said no homes were immediately threatened. Crews hoped to have the blaze knocked down by dawn.

The National Weather Service says a gauge in the mountains near Julian in San Diego County registered a gust of 89 mph at 7:30 a.m. An 82 mph wind gust was recorded in the Malibu hills Saturday afternoon.

The winds kicked up Friday night and were expected to continue Sunday, though they were expected to be somewhat weaker, the National Weather Service said.

The Santa Ana winds are generated during cooler months when westward currents reach fierce speeds as they squeeze through Southern California mountain ranges and buffet coastal areas. The winds lower humidity and making vegetation susceptible to fire.

Meanwhile, a high-surf advisory warning of up to 11-foot-high surf was in effect through Sunday.

Authorities said the winds blew two kayakers out to sea off the coast of Malibu. They were reported missing for about an hour before Los Angeles County Fire Department lifeguards helped them paddle back to shore.



RICHARD VOGEL/AP

A Los Angeles Department of Transportation worker tends to a fallen traffic light that was blown down by heavy winds in the Van Nuys section of Los Angeles on Saturday.



DAN MARSHKA, (LANCASTER, Pa.) LNP Media Group/AP

A man hauls farm cargo with a horse-drawn carriage in Leacock Township, Pa., on Saturday. Overnight snow brought wet, slushy conditions to the area.

Blizzard-like conditions possible in Northeast

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A major snowstorm with blizzard-like conditions could drop a foot or more of snow across most parts of the Northeast as they gear up for the workweek right after the first real storm of the winter hit them with rain, several inches of snow and messy slush.

A storm system diving out of the Midwest has the potential to slowly coat from Philadelphia up to Massachusetts and Maine with snow beginning late Sunday night into Monday and intensifying greatly well into Tuesday, the National Weather Service said.

"There's the potential for a significant snowstorm to impact the entire Northeast U.S.," meteorologist Patrick Maloit said.

Areas east of New York City could receive in excess of a foot of snow if the storm develops as feared, he said, stressing that's still "a big if."

The storm, which brewed late Saturday around the Iowa-

Minnesota line, is likely to track down into the central Appalachians and then to traverse its way very slowly through the Northeast states, and to reach the Gulf of Maine late Tuesday night, he said. The slow movement of the storm, he said, could help produce quite a bit of snowfall and blizzard-like or blizzard conditions: at least three hours of wind gusts of 35 mph or greater and visibility of less than a quarter of a mile because of snow or blowing snow.

The storm could stall before it tracks out to sea, bringing high wind, heavy precipitation and the potential for coastal flooding, the National Weather Service said. It would be the second wallp for the Northeast after what happened Saturday, when a storm crawling up the East Coast left a slushy, snowy coating from Pennsylvania to New England.

The storm dumped at least 9 inches of snow in parts of Pennsylvania and 8 inches in parts of New York, northern New Jersey and northwestern Connecticut,

with widespread reports of more than 4 inches in inland areas across southern New England. Lighter amounts were reported in Philadelphia, Boston and New York City, where the snowfall stopped Saturday evening.

About 8 inches of snow fell in far eastern Maine before the storm moved out late Saturday night.

Numerous accidents were reported on the slick roads, but there were no major highway backups in the lighter weekend traffic. Police in Connecticut and Massachusetts were investigating the weather's role in traffic accidents that killed two people Saturday afternoon.

In suburban New York, a man chased his dog onto ice covering a lake and they both fell through it. Police used a ladder to pull the man out of Massapequa Lake to safety and rescued his shivering dog as well. The man was treated at a hospital for hypothermia, a dangerously low body temperature.

Balloon crew launches in effort to break 2 major records

The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — An international team has launched its helium-filled balloon from Japan in a bid to reach North America and to break two major records en route.

Pilots Troy Bradley, of New Mexico, and Leonid Tiukhtyaev, of Russia, set off from Saga, Japan, shortly before 6:30 a.m. Sunday Japan time.

"Everything went just like a textbook," said Letitia Hill, social

media director for the team's mission control in Albuquerque.

Unfavorable weather changes scuttled two previous launch attempts more than a week ago.

The pilots are looking to reach North America, an attempt that will put them on course to break a distance record of 5,208 miles. They also want to break the flight-duration record set in 1978 when Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson and Larry Newman made the first trans-Atlantic balloon flight. That record of 137 hours in

the air in a traditional gas balloon is considered the holy grail of ballooning achievements.

The team is expected to land in the next 5½ days, Hill said. Where they will land is anyone's guess.

"That's going to keep us on the edge of our seats for this mission," Hill said after watching the launch at the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum.

Bradley and Tiukhtyaev's balloon — dubbed Two Eagles — is

outfitted with a high-tech navigation system, basic necessities such as a first-aid kit, and equipment to communicate with the command center.

It will fly at an altitude of at least 15,000 feet. The pilots will have oxygen masks and will be bundled up. The temperature inside their capsule will be about 50 degrees.

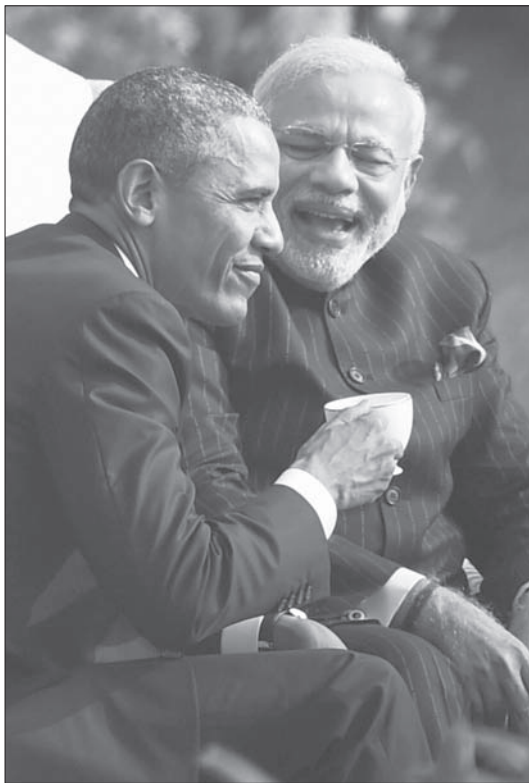
The pilots have to be physically fit to endure several days inside the capsule, with little sleep and limited oxygen. In addition to the record attempts, the flight is

being monitored by researchers at Arizona State University who are studying the effects of fatigue on cognitive ability.

It's possible the pilots could be aloft for 10 days, which is the outer limit of the balloon's capabilities, the team said.

Once the hatch is closed and the pilots are inside, it's much like a video game, monitoring the GPS and other systems for updates on weather conditions, speed and altitude, Bradley told The Associated Press in October.

WORLD



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA/AP

President Barack Obama, left, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi share a light moment over tea in the gardens of Hyderabad House in New Delhi, India, on Sunday.

Obama, India's PM embrace progress

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Seizing on their personal bond, President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Sunday they had made progress on nuclear co-operation and climate change, with Obama declaring a “breakthrough understanding” in efforts to free U.S. investment in nuclear energy development in India.

Obama and Modi expressed hope that a landmark 2008 nuclear agreement between the U.S. and India could begin to bear fruit.

“We are committed to moving towards full implementation, and this is an important step that shows how we can work together to elevate our relationship,” Obama said.

The two countries had been at an impasse over U.S. insistence on tracking fissile material it supplies to India and over Indian liability provisions that have discouraged U.S. firms from capitalizing on a 2008 civil nuclear agreement between the U.S. and India.

“In our judgment, the Indians have moved sufficiently on these issues to give us assurances that the issues are resolved,” said Ben Rhodes, Obama’s deputy national security adviser.

Rhodes said it would still be up to U.S. companies to assess the market and decide whether they wanted to partake. He said neither country needed to take legislative action to complete the agreements the leaders reached Sunday.

In a joint appearance following their meetings, both men went out of their way to illustrate how their personal chemistry was yielding progress on various fronts, from defense, to trade to energy issues.

“Barack and I have formed a bond, a friendship,” Modi said. “We can laugh and joke and talk easily on the phone. The chemistry that has brought Barack and me closer has also brought Washington and

Delhi closer.”

Obama said, “Your election and your strong personal commitment to the U.S.-India relationship gives us an opportunity to further energize these efforts.”

Under hazy skies Sunday, Modi greeted Obama with a hug on the airport tarmac and offered an elaborate welcome at the country’s sprawling presidential palace. Obama also solemnly laid a wreath at a memorial honoring the father of India’s independence movement, Mahatma Gandhi.

On Monday, Obama was to be the guest of honor at India’s Republic Day festivities, making him the first U.S. president to attend the anniversary of the enactment of country’s democratic constitution.

Obama is cutting his trip short to go to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to pay respects to

the royal family following the death of King Abdullah.

Other international topics also dogged Obama on his trip.

Obama said the administration is “deeply concerned” about the latest deadly flare-up in eastern Ukraine, where authorities said indiscriminate rocket fire killed at least 30 people in Mariupol, in the southeast, on Saturday. But Obama said he won’t change the way he’s been handling the situation. He said he’ll keep trying to isolate Russia and will review options short of military conflict with Russia over Ukraine.

The normally bustling streets of New Delhi were empty and the sidewalks cleared by Indian police as Obama’s motorcade sped from the palace to Gandhi’s memorial. A massive security presence was in place for Obama’s visit, with numerous roadblocks and armed men lining the streets.

Ukrainian leader: Evidence shows rebels fired rockets

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Intercepted radio and telephone conversations prove that Russia-backed separatists were responsible for firing the rockets that pounded the southeastern city of Mariupol and killed at least 30 people, Ukraine’s leader said Sunday.

President Petro Poroshenko, who held an emergency meeting Sunday of his Security Council, said the intercepted calls offered irrefutable evidence that separatists committed the attack.

U.S. President Barack Obama also put the blame on Moscow, warning that the United States would work with European partners to “ratchet up the pressure on Russia.”

Separatist leader Alexander Zakharchenko initially announced that his forces were launching an offensive on Mariupol. After the extent of civilian casualties became known, he backtracked and blamed Ukrainian forces for Saturday’s carnage.

In Mariupol on Sunday, emer-

gency workers recovered fragments of rockets from the scene of the killings. Representatives of the United Nations refugee agency handed out blankets to people left homeless or without heat because of the attack.

During the attack Saturday, indiscriminate rocket fire slammed into a market, schools, homes and shops in Mariupol, authorities said. Poroshenko called the blitz a terrorist attack, and NATO and the U.S. demanded that Russia stop supporting the rebels.

Ukrainian officials rushed to defend the strategically important port on the Sea of Azov, beefing up military positions with more equipment and sending in more forces.

Poroshenko cut short a trip to Saudi Arabia to coordinate the government’s response.

“The time has come to name their sponsors,” Poroshenko said in a recorded statement. “The help given to militants, weapons deliveries, equipment and the training of manpower — is this not aiding

terrorism?”

Russia insists it does not support the rebels, but Western military officials say the sheer number of heavy weapons under rebel control belies that claim.

An Associated Press reporter saw convoys of pristine heavy weapons in rebel territory earlier last week.

The rocket attacks came a day after the rebels rejected a peace deal and announced they were going on a multi-prong offensive against the government in Kiev to vastly increase their territory. The rebel stance has upended European attempts to mediate an end to the fighting in eastern Ukraine, which the U.N. says has killed nearly 5,100 people since April.

Mariupol, a major city under government control, lies between mainland Russia and the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula. Heavy fighting in the region in the fall raised fears that Russia-backed separatist forces would try to capture city to establish a land link between Russia and Crimea.



EVENYI MALOLETKA/AP

A man walks by a burned car and a piece of exploded Grad missile outside an apartment building in Mariupol, Eastern Ukraine, on Sunday. Rocket fire slammed into a market, schools, homes and shops in the city Saturday.

WORLD

In Nigeria, Kerry to talk elections and Boko Haram

By KEN DILANIAN
The Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is trying to encourage the main candidates in Nigeria's upcoming presidential vote to accept the results without the threat of postelection violence.

Kerry met first with President Goodluck Jonathan and planned to talk with former military dictator Muhammadu Buhari, the loser in the 2011 race, during his brief visit Sunday to Africa's most populous country.

The Feb. 14 election comes amid reports of killings and kidnappings carried out by Boko Haram, an al-Qaida-linked group that has seized large portions of northeast Nigeria and attacked civilians.

Last week, Boko Haram claimed responsibility for a massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Baga on the shores of Lake Chad.

In fierce fighting Sunday, Nigerian troops battled Islamist extremists who attacked Maiduguri, the biggest city in the northeast. Dozens of combatants have been killed and wounded, soldiers and hospital workers said.

Lagos, the country's commercial capital, is nearly 1,000 south-west of Maiduguri, the birthplace of Boko Haram that has been attacked many times in the long-running Islamist insurgency that killed 10,000 people last year.

Kerry intended to appeal to Jonathan and Buhari to instruct their supporters to refrain from

violence, State Department officials said ahead of Kerry's trip.

Jonathan's disputed 2011 electoral victory triggered riots in the north that killed an estimated 800 people.

American diplomats have expressed concern about what could be a prolonged election. Under Nigeria's election laws, a candidate must win more than 50 percent of the vote, as well as more than 25 percent of the vote in two-thirds of the states to avoid a runoff. If no candidate wins by those margins, a runoff election would take place Feb. 28. If those margins still are not achieved, a third runoff would be held in a week, winnable by a simple majority.

Boko Haram was expected to be a main topic of Kerry's discussions. In a report last week, the Virginia-based Center for Naval Analyses, a federally funded research corporation, called the group a local focus of insurgency largely fueled by bad government.

In December, Nigeria canceled the last stage of U.S. training of a Nigerian army battalion, a reflection of strained counterterrorism relations between the two governments.

In April 2014, Boko Haram kidnapped 270 schoolgirls from the northern town of Chibok, prompting international condemnation and a campaign to "Bring Back Our Girls." Most of the girls, however, have not been rescued.

Boko Haram has denounced democracy and is fighting to impose its strict version of Shariah law across Nigeria.

At least 13 die in clashes on 2011 uprising anniversary

The Associated Press

CAIRO — Supporters of Egypt's ousted Islamist President fought street battles with police in Cairo and other cities on Sunday, the fourth anniversary of the country's 2011 uprising, as clashes left 13 people dead and dozens injured. Another two people died when an explosive device they were planting under a high-voltage tower in the Nile Delta exploded prematurely, security officials said.

Most of the deaths took place in Cairo's Matariyah district — an Islamist stronghold where police clashed with supporters of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group. Nine protesters and one police constable were killed in the clashes, the officials said.

The violence underscored the

continued turmoil rolling the Arab world's most populous nation four years after the 18-day uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak. Although small and scattered, Sunday's violence is likely to impact negatively on Egypt's image just two months ahead of an international donors' conference it will host and in which President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's government has high hopes for the ailing economy.

Two other protesters were killed elsewhere in Cairo, and one in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

By early evening, debris covered the site of the Matariyah clashes and a cloud of tear gas hung over the area, according to Associated Press video footage. Several cars were damaged.



MICHAEL DUFFY/AP

A child stands near a quarantine sign that is part of an effort to combat the spread of the Ebola virus in Port Loko, Sierra Leone, in October. The World Health Organization is considering reforms to its structure after being criticized for its response to the Ebola outbreak.

WHO mulling reforms to repair reputation after bungling Ebola

By MARIA CHENG
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The World Health Organization is debating how to reform itself after botching the response to the Ebola outbreak, a sluggish performance that experts say cost thousands of lives.

On Sunday, the WHO's executive board planned to discuss proposals that could radically transform the United Nations health agency in response to sharp criticism over its handling of the West Africa epidemic.

"The Ebola outbreak points to the need for urgent change," said Dr. Margaret Chan, the WHO's director-general. She acknowledged that the WHO was too slow to grasp the significance of the Ebola outbreak, which is estimated to have killed more than 8,600 people, mainly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Critics say the kinds of reform

being debated are long overdue.

"The groundswell of dissatisfaction and lack of trust in WHO over Ebola has reached such a crescendo that unless there is fundamental reform, I think we might lose confidence in WHO for a generation," said Lawrence Gostin, director of the WHO Collaborating Center on Public Health Law and Human Rights at Georgetown University.

"Ebola revealed all of WHO's inherent weaknesses and the international community saw painfully what it was like to see WHO not being able to lead," he said. "That resulted in thousands of deaths that were completely avoidable."

"If that doesn't light a fire for reform, I don't know what will."

In reports issued to its 34-member board earlier this month, the WHO identified major holes in its ability to stop outbreaks and "a culture that resists embracing

operations, an essential element of emergency response."

A year before Ebola broke out in West Africa, the WHO's outbreak department slashed its staff to save \$6 million. In proposals to be discussed Sunday, the WHO appears to be backtracking on that decision, saying it must develop operational expertise beyond its "skeleton complement" of logistics experts.

Some experts expressed skepticism that the broad reforms being discussed by the WHO would significantly change anything.

"If we try to reform everything, then nothing will be done," said Dr. Jean Clement Cabral, a director of operations at Doctors Without Borders. He described certain parts of the WHO — specifically its Africa office, which was blamed by Geneva officials for blundering the early response — as "dreadful."

Anti-bailout party leads in Greek vote

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The anti-bailout Syriza party has won a decisive victory in Greece's national elections, according to projections by state-run TV's exit poll, in a historic first for a radical left-wing party in Greece.

But it was unclear whether the communist-inspired party had won a decisive enough victory over Prime Minister Antonis Samaras' incumbent conservatives to govern alone. For that, they need a minimum 151 of parliament's 300 seats.

Syriza's 40-year-old leader, Alexis Tsipras, has promised to renegotiate the country's \$270 billion international bailout deal. He has pledged to reverse many of the reforms that creditors de-

manded — including cuts in pensions and the minimum wage, some privatizations and public sector firings — in exchange for keeping Greece financially afloat since 2010.

The anti-bailout rhetoric has renewed doubts over Greece's ability to emerge from its financial crisis that has seen a quarter of its economy wiped out, sent unemployment soaring and undermined the euro, the currency shared by 19 European countries.

Greece's creditors insist it must abide by previous commitments to continue receiving support, and investors and markets alike have been spooked by the anti-bailout rhetoric. Greece could face bankruptcy if a solution is

not found, although speculation of a "Grexit" — Greece leaving the euro — and potential collapse of the currency has been far less fraught than during the last general election in 2012.

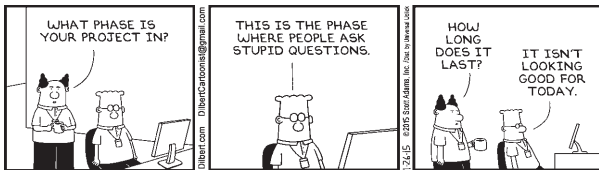
"What's clear is we have a historic victory that sends a message that does not only concern the Greek people, but all European peoples," Syriza party spokesman Panos Koufietis said on Mega television. "There is great relief among all Europeans. The only question is how big a victory it is."

Koufietis said the election results heralded "a return of social dignity and social justice. A return to democracy. Because, beyond the wild austerity, democracy has suffered."

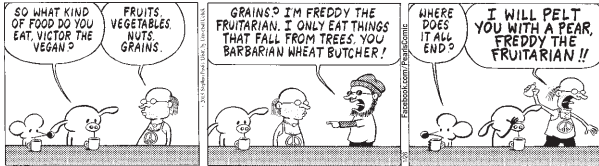
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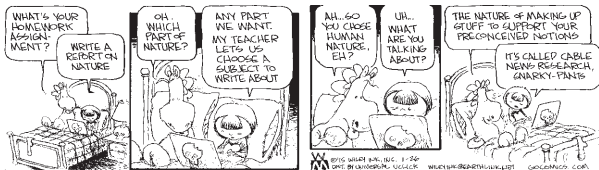
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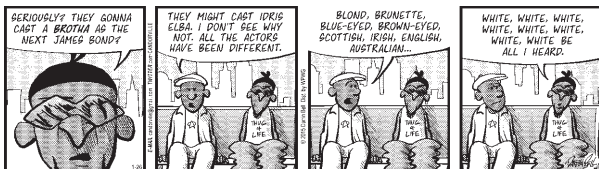
Pearls Before Swine



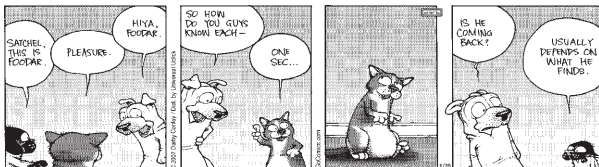
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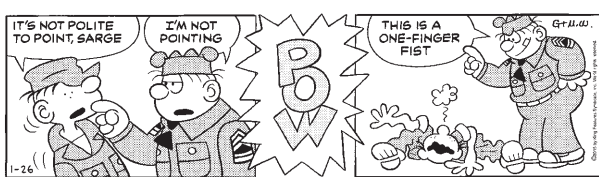
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | | | 12 | | 13 | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | | 16 | | | 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | | 20 | | 21 | | |
| | | | 22 | | 23 | | | 24 | | 25 | 26 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | 31 | | | 32 | | | |
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| 37 | | | | 38 | | | 39 | | 40 | | |
| 41 | | | | | 42 | | | 43 | | | |
| | | | 44 | | | 45 | | 46 | | 47 | 48 |
| 50 | 51 | 52 | | | 53 | | 54 | | 55 | | |
| 56 | | | | | 57 | | | | 58 | | |
| 59 | | | | | 60 | | | | | 61 | |

ACROSS

- 1 Tree fluid
- 4 Pouch
- 7 "Take — Train"
- 11 Get ready, for short
- 13 Devoured
- 14 Tough
- 15 Beige
- 16 Actress Gretchin
- 17 Deli loaves
- 18 Egg-beating tool
- 20 Mexican money
- 22 Bawl
- 24 Tackled tenguins
- 28 Watch the youngsters
- 32 Gap
- 33 From the start
- 34 Card player's call
- 36 PC picture
- 37 Becker of tennis
- 39 "— Green" (1973 movie)
- 41 Infant in an aerie
- 43 Zero
- 46 Plumbing problem
- 48 Entourage
- 50 Martial art
- 53 Track circuit
- 55 "To — it may concern"
- 56 "— Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"
- 57 Single
- 58 Rani's wrap
- 59 Prescriptions, for short

- 60 — Perce tribe
- 61 Gibson or Brooks
- 27 Fender bender
- 28 George Herman Ruth

DOWN

- 1 Jet forth
- 2 Foot part
- 3 "— the season ..."
- 4 "Casablanca" pianist
- 5 On
- 6 Star
- 7 Sofa cushions
- 8 Dinner for
- 9 Before
- 10 Billboards
- 12 Plants with catkins
- 19 Decks in the ring
- 21 "Ho!"
- 23 Ginormous
- 25 Frilly fabric
- 26 Keynes sub.
- 29 Ox of crosswords
- 30 Arctic sight
- 31 "— the season ..."
- 35 French refusal
- 38 Witness
- 40 Shnll bark
- 42 Claw
- 45 Welles role
- 47 Counterfeit
- 48 Aching
- 49 Jannings of old movies
- 50 Muppet creator
- 51 Work with
- 52 Papa
- 54 Dispensed candy

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | A | N | C | E | C | L | A | S | S |
| R | E | B | O | R | N | H | A | L | I |
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| O | T | T | D | R | Y | A | D | T | O |
| J | E | E | P | Y | O | N | V | E | G |
| A | N | D | E | S | U | T | T | E | R |
| T | I | M | J | O | N | | | | |
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| B | E | T | E | L | D | E | T | E | R |

1-26

CRYPTOQUIP

Q O H X M N K N Q X N M E V X
E Y X J U X O T N C E J X C Y V N

J O U A C V X R P K X O E J N U X N Q

T X N T J X : R N E A Q P E V N H O C .
Saturday's Cryptoquip: PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT
CENTER FOR MANUFACTURING PASTA:
SPAGHETTISBURG.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals P

BUSINESS/WEATHER

European stimulus lifts economic hopes

BY PAN PYLAS
The Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland — The global economic outlook just got brighter after last week's big stimulus from the European Central Bank, leading policymakers from around the world said Saturday.

In a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, they said a perkier Europe, coupled with a prolonged period of low oil prices, could help shore up the global economy following a period of underperformance that has prompted many forecasters to reduce their growth forecasts.

"Lower oil prices and the big decision by ECB could further improve world economic outlook," said Haruhiko Kuroda, governor of the Bank of Japan.

The ECB's planned 1.1 trillion-euro (\$1.2 trillion) stimulus has been one of the main talking points at Davos and has helped counter some of the pessimism that has enveloped the global economy in

the past few weeks. Stock markets around the world have surged amid hopes the ECB move could help boost the ailing economy of the 19-country eurozone.

However, Benoit Coeure, an executive board member at the ECB, insisted that on its own, it won't be enough. He said governments across the region have to enact a raft of structural reforms to their economies, such as making their labor markets more flexible and encouraging businesses to invest.

Coeure hoped the stimulus will give governments the space and encouragement to proceed with those measures.

Some in Europe, particularly in Germany, are worried that the ECB's bond-buying program may ease the pressure on governments to do more to reform their economies.

In Germany, there's also concern the stimulus is debasing the

euro currency — the prospect of more euros in circulation can weigh on the currency. The euro has fallen sharply since Thursday's announcement and is trading at 11-year lows around the \$1.12 mark.

That's potentially good news for eurozone exporters as it makes their wares cheaper in international markets. A lower euro can also boost inflation as imports get pricier. The primary motivation behind the stimulus is to get inflation in the eurozone back toward the target of just below 2 percent. Currently prices are falling modestly.

Coeure insisted the lower euro wasn't a primary motivation of the ECB, stressing that the ECB doesn't have an exchange rate target.

The euro's fall, he said, "was part of the channel" by which the stimulus works but "not the main consideration."

Mark Carney, governor of the Bank of England, also welcomed

the ECB's stimulus and said low oil prices may prevail for longer than many people think.

"That creates an opportunity that is considerable and possibly undervalued for the global economy," he said.

Carney did issue one note of caution, warning that the current low interest rates around the world and the stimulus programs in Europe and Japan could prompt "excessive risk-taking."

However, he said a better international supervisory framework means the world economy is more able to deal with that than it was before the global financial crisis in 2008.

In a separate development that could boost global growth, 21 members of the World Trade Organization — Brazil, China, the European Union, Japan, Russia and the United States — backed efforts to conclude the so-called Doha Round negotiations, according to Swiss Economics Minister Johann Schneider-Ammann.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Euro costs (Jan. 26) | \$1.1613 |
| Dollar buys (Jan. 26) | €0.8611 |
| British pound (Jan. 26) | \$1.54 |
| Japanese yen (Jan. 26) | 115.00 |
| South Korean won (Jan. 26) | 1,055.00 |

| Commercial rates | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3770 |
| British pound | \$1,5005/0.6664 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.2421 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.2304 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.6200 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 7.3897 |
| France (Franc) | \$1,1245/0.5889 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.7522 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 275.60 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 4.0023 |
| Japan (Yen) | 117.78 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2942 |
| Norway (Krone) | 7.7478 |
| Pakistan (Rupee) | 44.04 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 3.75 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7584 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.3439 |
| South Africa (Rand) | 1,077.95 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8724 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 32.62 |

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check your country's military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

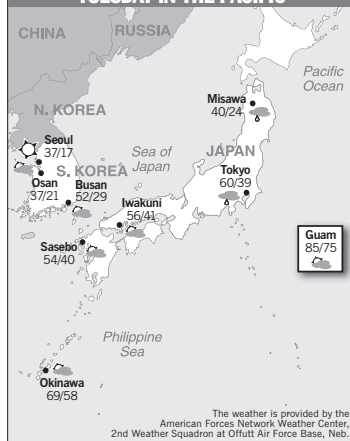
| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 3.25 |
| Discount rate | 0.75 |
| Federal funds market rate | 0.12 |
| 3-month bill | 0.03 |
| 30-year bond | 2.14 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE

**TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC**

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Monday's US temperatures

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|-------|------------|------|------------------|-------|----------------|-------|------------------|------------|----------------|------|---------------|------------|---------------|------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|-------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Abilene, Tex. | 69 | 43 | Hi | Lo | Wthr | Chattanooga, Ga. | 64 | 36 | 29 | City | Fort Wayne | 23 | 17 | City | Louisville | 36 | 31 | Snow | Pocatello | 44 | 28 | City | Sioux City | 54 | 29 | PCity | |
| Albany, Tex. | 69 | 43 | City | City | City | Cheney, Iowa | 64 | 36 | City | Fresno | 53 | 49 | City | Lubbock | 66 | 31 | City | Portland, Maine | 19 | 11 | PCity | Sioux Falls | 49 | 27 | PCity | | |
| Albany, N.Y. | 69 | 43 | City | City | City | Cheney, Iowa | 64 | 36 | City | Fresno | 53 | 49 | City | Lubbock | 66 | 31 | City | Portland, Ore. | 19 | 11 | PCity | Sioux Falls | 49 | 27 | PCity | | |
| Albany, N.Y. | 69 | 43 | City | City | City | Cincinnati | 31 | 26 | City | Grand Junction | 48 | 30 | City | Madison | 28 | 25 | Rain | Providence | 27 | 22 | City | Spokane | 46 | 35 | PCity | | |
| Albuquerque | 56 | 35 | City | City | City | Cleveland | 22 | 14 | City | Grand Rapids | 21 | 11 | City | Meerford | 62 | 29 | City | Pueblo | 69 | 31 | City | Springfield, Ill. | 37 | 30 | City | | |
| Albuquerque | 56 | 35 | City | City | City | Cleveland | 22 | 14 | City | Grand Rapids | 21 | 11 | City | Meerford | 62 | 29 | City | Pueblo | 69 | 31 | City | Springfield, Mo. | 46 | 35 | PCity | | |
| Amarillo | 67 | 31 | City | City | City | Columbia, S.C. | 55 | 34 | City | Green Bay | 25 | 22 | City | Miami Beach | 74 | 52 | City | Reno | 64 | 35 | City | Syracuse | 18 | 10 | PCity | | |
| Anchorage | 6 | -1 | City | City | City | Columbus, Ga. | 51 | 36 | City | Greensboro, N.C. | 48 | 29 | City | Midland-Odesa | 67 | 38 | City | Repit | 58 | 39 | City | Tallahassee | 68 | 36 | PCity | | |
| Anchorage | 6 | -1 | City | City | City | Columbus, Ga. | 51 | 36 | City | Greensboro, N.C. | 48 | 29 | City | Midland-Odesa | 67 | 38 | City | Repit | 58 | 39 | City | Tallahassee | 68 | 36 | PCity | | |
| Atlanta | 48 | 34 | City | City | City | Concord, N.H. | 18 | 10 | PCity | Hartford Spgld | 17 | 24 | Shw | Mpls-St Paul | 39 | 25 | Rain | Roanoke | 41 | 29 | Rain | Toledo | 19 | 10 | PCity | | |
| Atlantic City | 71 | 46 | City | City | City | Concord, N.H. | 18 | 10 | PCity | Hartford Spgld | 17 | 24 | Shw | Mpls-St Paul | 39 | 25 | Rain | Roanoke | 41 | 29 | Rain | Toledo | 19 | 10 | PCity | | |
| Austin | 71 | 46 | City | City | City | Dallas-Ft Worth | 69 | 46 | City | Honolulu | 79 | 64 | City | Mobile | 57 | 39 | City | Rockford | 49 | 26 | City | Topeka | 62 | 31 | City | | |
| Baltimore | 69 | 43 | City | City | City | Dayton | 25 | 19 | City | Houston | 65 | 45 | City | Montgomery | 49 | 34 | City | Sacramento | 60 | 50 | PCity | Tulsa | 46 | 38 | City | | |
| Baltimore | 69 | 43 | City | City | City | Dayton | 25 | 19 | City | Houston | 65 | 45 | City | Montgomery | 49 | 34 | City | Sacramento | 60 | 50 | PCity | Tulsa | 46 | 38 | City | | |
| Billings | 56 | 36 | City | City | City | Denver | 69 | 39 | City | Indianapolis | 30 | 24 | City | New Orleans | 57 | 44 | City | St Petersburg | 64 | 52 | PCity | Tulsa | 46 | 38 | City | | |
| Birmingham | 44 | 34 | PCity | De Moines | 50 | 32 | City | Jackson, Miss. | 50 | 32 | City | Jackson, Miss. | 50 | 32 | City | New York City | 24 | 20 | Snow | St Thomas | 84 | 57 | City | Washington | 36 | 27 | PCity |
| Birmingham | 44 | 34 | PCity | De Moines | 50 | 32 | City | Jackson, Miss. | 50 | 32 | City | Jackson, Miss. | 50 | 32 | City | New York City | 24 | 20 | Snow | St Thomas | 84 | 57 | City | Washington | 36 | 27 | PCity |
| Boise | 46 | 31 | PCity | Duluth | 34 | 21 | Snow | Jackson | 50 | 32 | City | Jackson | 50 | 32 | City | Norfolk, Va. | 55 | 23 | Rain | Salt Lake City | 47 | 33 | City | W. Palm Beach | 50 | 27 | PCity |
| Boise | 46 | 31 | PCity | Duluth | 34 | 21 | Snow | Jackson | 50 | 32 | City | Jackson | 50 | 32 | City | Norfolk, Va. | 55 | 23 | Rain | Salt Lake City | 47 | 33 | City | W. Palm Beach | 50 | 27 | PCity |
| Boston | 56 | 35 | City | Duluth | 34 | 21 | Snow | Jackson | 50 | 32 | City | Jackson | 50 | 32 | City | Norfolk, Va. | 55 | 23 | Rain | Salt Lake City | 47 | 33 | City | W. Palm Beach | 50 | 27 | PCity |
| Bridgeport | 25 | 25 | Snow | Elkins | 31 | 21 | Snow | Key West | 73 | 61 | City | Key West | 73 | 61 | City | Oklahoma City | 68 | 40 | City | San Antonio | 69 | 43 | City | Wichita Falls | 70 | 39 | City |
| Brownsville | 70 | 50 | City | Elkins | 31 | 21 | Snow | Key West | 73 | 61 | City | Key West | 73 | 61 | City | Oklahoma City | 68 | 40 | City | San Antonio | 69 | 43 | City | Wichita Falls | 70 | 39 | City |
| Brownsville | 70 | 50 | City | Elkins | 31 | 21 | Snow | Key West | 73 | 61 | City | Key West | 73 | 61 | City | Oklahoma City | 68 | 40 | City | San Antonio | 69 | 43 | City | Wichita Falls | 70 | 39 | City |
| Burlington, Vt. | 14 | 4 | City | Evansville | 37 | 30 | City | Lansing | 20 | 8 | PCity | Lansing | 20 | 8 | PCity | Pasadena | 41 | 32 | City | St Jose | 70 | 47 | PCity | Yakima | 47 | 33 | City |
| Burlington, Vt. | 14 | 4 | City | Evansville | 37 | 30 | City | Lansing | 20 | 8 | PCity | Lansing | 20 | 8 | PCity | Pasadena | 41 | 32 | City | St Jose | 70 | 47 | PCity | Yakima | 47 | 33 | City |
| Casper | 52 | 33 | City | Fargo | 61 | 23 | PCity | Lexington | 33 | 28 | Snow | Lexington | 33 | 28 | Snow | Peoria | 36 | 29 | City | St Ste Marie | 16 | 4 | Snow | Yakima | 47 | 33 | City |
| Charleston, S.C. | 59 | 37 | City | Flagstaff | 50 | 36 | City | Lincoln | 62 | 29 | PCity | Lincoln | 62 | 29 | PCity | Philadelphia | 32 | 23 | Snow | Savannah | 60 | 38 | City | Yakima | 47 | 33 | City |
| Charleston, S.C. | 59 | 37 | City | Flagstaff | 50 | 36 | City | Lincoln | 62 | 29 | PCity | Lincoln | 62 | 29 | PCity | Philadelphia | 32 | 23 | Snow | Savannah | 60 | 38 | City | Yakima | 47 | 33 | City |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 51 | 30 | City | Ft Smith | 62 | 38 | City | Los Angeles | 68 | 56 | City | Los Angeles | 68 | 56 | City | Pittsburgh | 32 | 18 | Snow | Savannah | 60 | 38 | City | Yakima | 47 | 33 | City |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 51 | 30 | City | Ft Smith | 62 | 38 | City | Los Angeles | 68 | 56 | City | Los Angeles | 68 | 56 | City | Pittsburgh | 32 | 18 | Snow | Savannah | 60 | 38 | City | Yakima | 47 | 33 | City |

National temperature extremes

Hi: Salt Lake City, 84; Tulsa, Okla., 84; Los Angeles, 84; Los

National temperature extremes

Cldy Hi: Sat., 85, Fullerton, Calif.
Clr Lo: Sat., -13, Gunnison, Colo.

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE



PHOTOS BY RICK LOOMIS, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS
Dr. Lisa Stern, right, a pediatrician, talks with Christa McCaffrey, of Santa Monica, Calif., about her 2-month-old daughter, Olive, during a visit to the clinic for a vaccination. Stern attended a program that helps doctors talk to patients about vaccines when they are unwilling to vaccinate their children.



Nursing supervisor Caitlin Canelli gives a shot to Olive.



Rachel Gipson entertains her twins, Simon and Henry, 2, while waiting to be seen by Stern.

CONTAGIOUS BELIEFS

Study: Anti-vaccine parents found to stick together as their ranks grow

BY MICHELLE FAY CORTEZ
 Bloomberg News

More parents are leery about vaccinating their children, even against once-common diseases like measles and whooping cough. New research suggests their beliefs are contagious, too.

A groundbreaking study of 154,424 children covered by Kaiser Permanente in Northern California found five geographic clusters where children were significantly more likely to be underimmunized by their third birthday, including almost one in four toddlers in part of Vallejo, a city in the San Francisco Bay area. The approach may help doctors identify communities where parents are the most concerned and the chance of an outbreak is highest, the researchers said.

The findings published in *Pediatrics* confirm long-held speculation that opposition to immunizations can concentrate in communities, increasing the risk of outbreaks, said lead author Tracy Lieu, a pediatrician and director of the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research. They also bolster earlier findings that the number of children who aren't getting the recommended vaccines, or receiving them on time, is on the rise.

"While complete refusal of all vaccines is quite rare, we know parental concern about vaccination has increased in the past decade," Lieu said. "We need to learn a lot more about what are the effective ways of communicating with parents."

While the poor have long had lower rates of vaccinations because of their costs, the ranks of children who haven't had their shots have been climbing in other categories because of fears that immunizations may hurt developing bodies and even lead to autism — concerns that have been debunked in numerous studies.

The findings published in *Pediatrics* are timely, coming amid an outbreak of measles in children and young adults who visited Disneyland and Disney California Adventure Park last month. Of 28 people who were infected, just three were fully vaccinated, the state's Department of Public Health said in an email on Jan. 15.

The number of parents who want an alternative vaccine schedule is also growing, as many don't want their children to receive three, four or even more shots during the same doctor visit. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends a raft of immunizations for hepatitis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, tetanus and other infectious diseases, requiring at least 17 injections by age 3.

The results of the study weren't consistent across socioeconomic and demographic groups. Partial immunization was seen more often in poor neighborhoods and in those where graduate degrees were most common. Asians, Hispanics and those in families with higher incomes were more likely to be fully immunized. Cost shouldn't have been a problem in the study since everyone had insurance and Kaiser fully covers vaccinations, Lieu said.

"The idea is that by identifying these clusters earlier we can get ahead of them," she said. "Maybe we can help the clinician be better prepared to talk to parents who have questions about vaccine safety and, therefore, be able to prevent an epidemic. It can also help them monitor more closely for diseases that we know occur in unvaccinated children."

While the poor have long had lower rates of vaccinations, the ranks of children who haven't had their shots have been climbing in other categories because of fears, widely debunked, that immunizations may hurt developing bodies and even lead to autism.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man faces sex charges for police test answers

PA MEADVILLE — State police have charged a Pennsylvania man with having sex with a minor based on answers he allegedly gave during a polygraph pretest while applying to become a state trooper.

Troopers from Meadville on Thursday charged Joseph Adam White, 29, of Hartstown with four counts of unlawful sexual contact with a minor and 10 counts of corruption of minors.

Police say White was at the Meadville barracks on Jan. 15 for his police cadet lie detector exam and, during the pretest, told the examiner he had consensual sex and other contact with the girl — who is now 19 — in 2011.

Police charged White after they interviewed the girl and she corroborated that information.

Condom fashion show to push sexual health

WA ELLENSBURG — Students will show off outfits made entirely of condoms as part of sexual health week at Central Washington University.

The university's Wellness Center expects 15 outfits for the fashion show on Feb. 10 in the student union ballroom on the campus in Ellensburg.

The (Ellensburg) Daily Record reported each team will be given 600 condoms with which to create an outfit. They will compete for prizes in a variety of categories.

By putting sexual health on the catwalk, the Wellness Center said it hopes to reduce the discomfort of discussing condoms and sexual health.

Official: Lawmaker not immune in DUI case

KY LOUISVILLE — The president of the state Senate says a fellow Republican state senator should not be immune from DUI charges just because the legislature is in session.

Sen. Brandon Smith, of Hazard, is facing DUI charges stemming from a Jan. 6 arrest on the first day of the 2015 legislative session. Thursday, his attorney filed a motion to dismiss the charges because section 43 of the Kentucky constitution prohibits lawmakers from being arrested while the legislature is in session.

Republican Senate President Robert Stivers, of Manchester, who is also an attorney, said no lawmaker is above the law and it is clear the immunity does not apply in this situation. He said Smith is innocent until proven guilty and his thoughts and prayers continue to go out to Smith and his family.

Lawyer: Man sentenced for crime he can't recall

PA BUTLER — A western Pennsylvania man has been sentenced to a year of probation for crimes his defense attorney says the man can't recall since a brain injury suffered in a car accident.

Not only that, but defense attor-

THE CENSUS

\$2,631

The amount of money a New Hampshire woman got at a Burger King drive-thru. Janelle Jones said she discovered on the way home that her bag did not contain the sweet tea and junior spicy chicken sandwich that she had ordered Friday at the Rochester restaurant. She called her husband and they decided to return the money, which was intended to be a bank deposit.



DAN PELLE, THE (SPOKANE, WASH.) SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Snack for a snowman

Miles McQuesten, 5, stands in front of a snowman that he built with his father Friday in Spokane, Wash.

ney Stephen Misko said Christian Eshenbaugh, 23, has become a "completely different person" as he struggles to regain his memory and motor skills — and no longer has a penchant for petty crimes fueled by drug use.

The Butler Eagle reported Eshenbaugh pleaded guilty to stealing aluminum tire rims 20 to 30 at a time from a Butler County salvage yard. In all, he is accused of taking more than 2,000 rims worth more than \$33,000 in the two months before he was injured in 2013.

At Wednesday's sentencing, Misko said Eshenbaugh has "turned his life 180 degrees."

Ambulances equipped with bike racks

CO FORT COLLINS — In a testament to how much Fort Collins love its bikes, cyclists who need to go to the hospital no longer have to leave their valuable rides behind.

Poudre Valley Hospital has equipped all of its 14 ambulances with bike racks after encountering more and more cyclists who either were involved in bike accidents or had typical medical emergencies.

Spokeswoman Kelly Tracers said

Friday that some people were reluctant to leave their bikes, which can cost more than some cars, locked up at the scene. In addition, ambulance workers were spending too much time going back to unlock the bikes once someone could retrieve them.

The (Fort Collins) Coloradoan reported that the hospital spent about \$5,000 to install the racks, or \$356 per ambulance.

Wood chip deliveryman gets stuck in bin, freed

VT NEWPORT — Rescuers went to the aid of a wood chip deliveryman who became trapped in a hospital's wood chip bin, sinking into a shipment he had just delivered.

Newport Fire Chief Jamie LeClair told the (St. Johnsbury) Caledonian Record the man was trying to move around chips delivered to North Country Hospital on Thursday when he began to sink. He was buried up to his chest. Hospital staff were digging out around his torso so he could breathe more easily when firefighters arrived and tied a safety vest to him.

LeClair said the city public works crew brought in a vacuum truck to suck out wood chips to

help free the man.

Hospital spokeswoman Wendy Franklin said the wood chip heating system was shut down until an investigation is concluded.

Yellowstone transfers bison for slaughter

MT BILLINGS — Yellowstone National Park has begun transferring wild bison for slaughter as part of a plan to reduce the population by up to 900 animals this winter.

Wildlife advocates said more than 100 bison captured near the Yellowstone-Montana border were removed from their holding pens Wednesday, loaded onto trailers and shipped off.

Park spokesman Al Nash confirmed the shipments, but said the number of animals was fewer. He declined to give a specific number and said the park no longer plans to give timely updates on how many bison are shipped to slaughter.

The bison were turned over to American Indian tribes, and their meat will be distributed to tribal members.

There were 4,900 bison in the park last summer. Officials want to curb the animals' winter migration into Montana to guard

against potential disease transmissions to livestock.

Police break up casino in home, arrest 8

CA SAN JOSE — Police in Northern California arrested eight people after discovering a home-based casino with more than a dozen video gambling machines, drugs and cash.

The San Jose Mercury News reported that police on Tuesday responded to a call in San Jose for reports of a possible assault involving a man and a woman at a home.

Lt. Mike Sullivan said when police arrived, people tried to leave the home. Sullivan said officers then discovered the machines, drugs and an undisclosed amount of cash.

Eight people were arrested for narcotics possession and active felony warrants. No one was arrested in direct connection with the discovery or possession of the machines. No injuries were reported.

In November 2013, authorities broke up a sizable illegal gambling ring run out of San Jose coffee shops.

From wire reports

FACES

Kidman shows her silly side in 'Paddington'

By LINDSEY BAHRL
The Associated Press

Nicole Kidman knows most people don't consider her a comedic actress. In her 31-year career, her roles have ranged from the morose to the deliciously sadistic. There are a few straight comedies in her résumé, but Kidman is the first to admit that she just doesn't get many offers to do that type of work.

She's won an Oscar. She's worked with Stanley Kubrick, Jane Campion and Lars Von Trier. So how did she end up in a modest role as a delightfully villainous taxidermist in the children's film "Paddington" with a relatively unknown director at the helm?

"The answer is simple: She was asked. 'The desire to run the gamut and be diverse is something you're taught at drama school,'" said Kidman on a recent afternoon at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. "We're trained in Shakespeare... and we're trained in mime classes. But a lot of times you're not given the opportunity to explore the things that you've cultivated."

For director Paul King, it was a no-brainer. He'd seen Gus Van Sant's "To Die For" and knew Kidman had to be his Millicent.

In the film, Millicent is a leather-clad, stiletto-wearing femme fatale who will stop at nothing to stuff the iconic talking bear from Darkest Peru and put him in a museum.

"He wrote it for me. I'm not sure if that's a flattering thing or not," Kidman said, laughing.

King, who had mostly worked in British television, knew it was a long shot. "You should never write for an actor because they'll just say no. But I did have her in mind," he said.

The hard part was convincing everyone to actually put the script in front of Kidman. As King describes it, it's a process of being politely insistent. Despite all the warnings that Kidman was never going to say yes, as soon as she heard the name "Paddington," she jumped. Kidman had grown up reading Michael Bond's books in Australia, and it just struck a chord.

Ultimately, King said, she was the easiest person to cast. She signed on in just 12 hours.

"You don't often see the silly side of Nicole, and she's such a funny, easygoing person," said King, who really put the actress to the test. On day one, she was hanging upside down on wires, and it just got more challenging from there.

Nicole Kidman is starring in the movie "Paddington." The director asked her to star in the film, even though he'd been warned she would never say yes.

Rob Latour, INVISION/AP



Rogen: Comment was not meant to have any political implications

From wire reports

Seth Rogen responded to the outrage incited by a series of tweets he wrote regarding the film "American Sniper" in a statement issued exclusively to The Associated Press on Jan. 22, saying it wasn't his intent to offend anyone or to say anything with political implications.

The actor and filmmaker, fresh off of the whirlwind, Sonyhack-added release of his film "The Interview," was thrown back into the spotlight Jan. 18 when he tweeted that "American Sniper kind of reminds me of the movie that's showing in the third act of (Inglourious) Basterds."

Quentin Tarantino's 2009 revenge fantasy film shows clips from a fake propaganda movie about a skilled Nazi sniper.

Online outlets including Fox News Insider, the Daily Caller and Breitbart concluded that Rogen's intent was to liken Clint Eastwood's fact-based drama about the late Navy SEAL Chris Kyle to "Nazi propaganda."

On Jan. 19, Rogen went back to Twitter to clarify that he "actually liked" Eastwood's film and that he wasn't comparing the two at all.

Conservative blogs, however, were not appeased. Celebrities including Kid Rock joined in to publicly criticize Rogen, too.

In his statement Jan. 22, Rogen reiterated that the movie only reminded him of the other "because they both involved plots about the most lethal of snipers." He went on to explain that he would never compare the film to Nazi propaganda, and that he has nothing against Kyle or veterans in general.

"My grandfather was a veteran," Rogen said.

"My comment about the movie was not meant to have any political implications," he said. "Any political meaning was ascribed to my comment by news commentary."

Rogen also apologized for any offense his tweets might have caused. The actor concluded the statement by saying he hoped that "this clears things up."

'Glee' actress cast as Supergirl

Actress Melissa Benoist is set to star in "Supergirl," CBS' new one-hour drama, the latest in a flurry of TV shows based on comic book superheroes.

The series will be written and executive produced by "No Ordinary Family" team Greg Berlanti ("Arrow," "The Flash") and Ali Adler ("Chuck," "Glee"), with Sarah Schechter ("Pan") also executive producing.

Supergirl, comics fans know, is Superman's cousin Kara Zor-El. Like Kal-El, Kara escaped Krypton before it was destroyed and arrived on Earth after her



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Actor and writer Seth Rogen responded to the outrage incited by a series of tweets he wrote regarding the film "American Sniper" in a statement issued exclusively to The Associated Press Jan. 22, saying it wasn't his intent to offend anyone or to say anything with political implications.

cousin, with whom she shares an array of superhuman abilities. The show will focus on a 24-year-old Kara who is ready to stop hiding her powers and become a hero.

On television, Benoist is best known for her work on "Glee"; she can be seen currently on the big screen in the Oscar-nominated film "Whiplash." Later this spring, she will be featured in Fox's "The Longest Ride."

It won't be Supergirl's first time on screen; Helen Slater played the character in the critically panned 1984 film "Supergirl," which also starred Faye Dunaway. More recently, Laura Vandervoort portrayed Kara Zor-El in "Smallville," the Superman origin series on The CW.

Other news

■ Paula Abdul is getting back into the judging business on Fox. The former "American Idol" judge will join the "So You Think You Can Dance" panel when the talent show returns this summer. Jason Derulo also is coming aboard as a judge, the network said Jan. 22. The singer-songwriter's hits include "Talk Dirty" and "Wiggle." Returning judge Nigel Lythgoe, who's also the show's executive producer, said the 12th season will include a twist: Stage dancers will compete against street dancers.

■ Music producer and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Clive Davis is this year's winner of the highest honor awarded by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Institute of 1770. Davis will receive the Order of the Golden Sphinx award at a gala in New York City on April 13. The institute announced the award Jan. 21. Davis says in a statement that he's thrilled to be receiving the award, which recognizes extraordinary contributions to the performing arts.

WORLD

Pope to new cardinals: No flashy parties

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is warning his new cardinals to keep the partying to a minimum — and keep their egos in check — when they are formally elevated at a Vatican ceremony next month.

In a letter written to the 20 new princes of the church published Friday in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Francis warned the cardinals to avoid the type of ostentatious festivities that "stun worse than grappa on an empty stomach."

Traditionally, new cardinals are feted with lavish parties, often funded by well-meaning parishioners, in Rome after the ceremony where they receive their red hats. Francis, known for his personal simplicity and disdain for anything fancy, said it was perfectly fine to celebrate but urged his new cardinals to accept a party "with humility."

Some of the new cardinals who will be installed Feb. 14 hail from countries that have never before had a cardinal, including Cape Verde, Myanmar and Tonga. Many come from poor countries in the developing world — Panama, Mozambique, Thailand — reflecting Francis' insistence that the church hierarchy reflect the global reach of the Catholic Church and its "peripheries" where it must focus its ministry.

Francis urged the new cardinals to not consider their new vocation a "prize" but rather a calling to serve. "Maintaining humility in service isn't easy if you consider being a cardinal as a prize, the culmination of a career or a superior power," he said.



KIN CHEUNG/AP

Blending in

Belgian multi-disciplinary artist Ben Heine paints on a model blending with a wood panel, using acrylic for his artwork featuring the movement of chocolate fluid, at a gallery as part of his exhibition in Hong Kong on Sunday. Heine's exhibition will be held until March 1.

British tabloid is going topless again

dpa

LONDON — Britain's The Sun tabloid published a photograph of a bare-breasted woman on Thursday in defiance of widespread reporting that it had abandoned a 44-year tradition of running topless models on Page 3.

"We've had a mammary lapse," Britain's best-selling paper said, mocking reportage from sister paper The Times that it had bowed

to pressure from feminist groups.

The Times, also owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, announced last week that the nearly naked Page 3 Girl was no more.

"Further to recent reports in all other media outlets, we would like to clarify that this is Page 3 and this is a picture of Nicole, 22, from Bournemouth," The Sun declared.

The No More Page Three group,

which has picked up 215,000 supporters in its three years of campaigning and had been celebrating apparent victory, said in a tweet "joking about its return above a story sensationalizing sexual violence is deeply problematic."

In Germany, the largest selling daily tabloid, Bild, abolished its equivalent Page One Girl in March 2012 because "it no longer matches today's image of women."

Court upholds man's right to pee standing up

BERLIN — A German court has ruled that a tenant who liked to pee standing up doesn't owe his landlord money for damages apparently caused by splashing, or missing his target altogether.

The Duesseldorf administrative court rejected the landlord's claim of \$2,200 for alleged damage to the bathroom's marble floor, the dpa news agency reported Thursday.

While accepting expert testimony that urine had damaged the marble, Judge Stefan Hank ruled the man's method was within cultural norms, saying that "despite the increasing domestication of men in this context, urinating standing up is still common practice."

Hank said further that the tenant could have expected "regular conflicts" with those he lived with — but not that the bathroom's marble floor would be damaged.

Irish grandma busted for cocaine at bingo hall

DUBLIN — Helen Heaphy's number came up at the bingo hall. The prize was a trip to court.

The 50-year-old grandmother pleaded guilty Wednesday to two counts of possessing cocaine for sale or supply after Irish police caught her with the narcotic outside a Cork bingo hall.

Cork District Court Judge Leo Malone accepted her lawyer's plea for clemency citing her family obligations and her possession of a relatively small amount of the drug worth \$400. Heaphy insisted she was holding the cocaine for an unspecified friend.

Malone fined Heaphy \$870 but gave her no jail time, despite having two prior convictions for drugs possession and obstructing a police narcotics unit. She even was allowed to go back to playing bingo at the hall after the owner relented.

From wire reports



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OPINION

'American Sniper' misses real target

By ALYSSA ROSENBERG

The Washington Post

Given the ferocious fights over politics and fidelity to history that have defined this Oscar season, perhaps it's no surprise that "American Sniper" star Bradley Cooper wants to avoid his portrayal of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle becoming a partisan football.

"It's not a political movie at all, it's a movie about a man — a character study," he insisted in December. "We hope that you can have your eyes opened to the struggle of the soldier rather than the specifics of the war."

But what about the specifics of the man himself? "American Sniper," based on Kyle's memoir of the same name, scrupulously sands off Kyle's edges and political beliefs until he becomes precisely the generic stand-in for U.S. servicemembers that Cooper feared the movie might represent. "American Sniper" would have been a better film about Kyle and the war he fought in if director Clint Eastwood had been as bold with politics on film as he was on the Republican National Convention stage in 2012.

In the film, Kyle uses the word "savages," but "American Sniper" doesn't make room to explore the depth of his contempt for Iraqis that comes through in his memoir. He drove remote-controlled cars at them at high speed for the pleasure of watching their alarm: "Their high-pitched screams, coupled with sprints in the opposite direction, had me doubled over. Cheap thrills in Iraq were priceless," Kyle wrote. He bragged about stealing from their homes

against orders. He compared them to U.S. welfare recipients in their dependency and inability to handle freedom.

And Kyle saw his distaste for the people he was fighting as explicitly connected to his faith. "On the front of my arm, I had a crusader cross inked in," he wrote. "I wanted everyone to know I was a Christian. I had it put in red, for blood. I hated the damn savages I'd been fighting. I always will. They've taken so much from me." In a scene in the movie, Kyle is accused of shooting someone carrying a Quran, which he mistook for a weapon. In the film, he simply protests that he couldn't possibly have made such a mistake. But in his memoir, Kyle writes that he told investigators, "I don't shoot people with Qurans — I'd like to, but I don't."

I understand why Eastwood might have wanted to avoid these elements of Kyle's memoir, as well as his distaste for the military's civilian leadership and his belief that the United States never really wanted to find any weapons of mass destruction. They make Kyle a harder sell, both to people who already see the war on terror as fundamentally racist and to those who adamantly deny that it is animated in any way by anti-Arab bias.

But "American Sniper" would have been a much bolder movie, and much more interesting, if he had been willing to explore the proposition that society has a use for people who enjoy violence and who find it relatively easy to turn the people they kill into abstractions.

Alternately, Eastwood might have connected one of the central moments in "American Sniper" to more complicated

stories Kyle told about himself.

In the film, after Kyle gets into a fight in defense of his younger brother, his father tells him that there are three kinds of people: sheep, wolves and sheepsquas. "I will whip [you] if you become a wolf. But we protect our own." The line between a wolf that hunts for the joy of violence and a sheepsquid that fights only when it must to keep its flock safe at times can be a difficult one to keep clear.

In Kyle's memoir, he brags of beating up gang activity by beating sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk, of brawling with ultimate fighters, of flipping over cars, of decking a man who insulted a waitress. He didn't include in the book more extreme stories he apparently told acquaintances, including a tale of shooting or helping to shoot 30 people during looting that took place under the cover of Hurricane Katrina and another of killing two men who tried to carjack him at a gas station.

It's curious that Eastwood excludes both Kyle's fanciful stories of violence committed out of uniform and his more believable ones. Including some of them could have let "American Sniper" pose a series of powerful questions: Was Kyle a sheepsquid? Or did he become a wolf? And what happens to a wolf that thinks it's still protecting the flock, when in fact it's simply gratifying its own violent urges?

Eastwood and Cooper may have hoped to avoid commenting on the war in Iraq with "American Sniper." But in doing so, they made a movie that lacked the courage to truly see Chris Kyle as a person.

Alyssa Rosenberg writes The Post's Act Four blog.

To stop the terrorists, take away their hope

By ROBERT H. SCALES

The centerpiece of the national security strategy is to isolate and exploit an enemy's vulnerable "center of gravity." Carl von Clausewitz, the 19th-century Prussian military philosopher and father of modern military theory, defined center of gravity as "the source of power that provides moral or physical strength, freedom of action, or will to act."

Conventional wisdom inside the Pentagon and among defense intellectuals is that the vulnerable center of gravity of today's enemy is its extreme Islamist ideology. Speaking on "Fox News Sunday" after the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris, Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested that the rise in the terrorists' power has been mainly due to the inspiration that comes from an increasingly radical ideology. Thus, most of the Obama administration's "nine lines of effort" to defeat radical Islam are, in fact, nonmilitary actions meant to counter this ideology, such as disrupting the finances of terror groups and disseminating alternative messaging.

But the numerous attacks we have seen around the world suggest that this ideology is not a vulnerable center of gravity, if it ever was. Dedication to an ideological cause does not appear to be in short supply. Likewise, after the Abu Ghraib scandal and 12 years of perceived atrocities against Islam at the Guantanamo Bay prison, the United States long ago lost its ability to effectively fight an ideological war against Islamic terrorism.

Our political masters need to distinguish between ideology and the enemy's true vulnerable center of gravity: hope. The differences are subtle. Hope is the be-

lief that ideology will prevail. Hope drives motivation or, in the psychologist's jargon, a "response initiation." To the extent that hope is present, a terrorist will translate belief into action. As hope is removed, even the most ideologically attuned enemy will become passive. As Clausewitz advises: Strike the center of gravity and the enemy loses the will to act.

The history of war suggests hope is a fuel that induces young, post-adolescent men to turn ideology into action. And hope rises with the perception of military success.

Confederate soldiers were given hope of eventual victory after the Union debacle at the First Battle of Bull Run. A similar rise of mindless hope occurred among German youth after the fall of Paris in 1940 and, sadly, within the U.S. Army after the fall of Baghdad in 2003.

Hope extends wars and makes them bloodier through the euphoria that comes with a rush to share in the glory. Hope gives young men surety and confidence. It provides a moral sanctuary and is the glue that binds soldiers together in war. Soldiers — and, by extension, terrorists — simply won't fight if there is no hope.

Arab cultures have a history with the mercenary collapse of hope. The huge swirals in hope among Arab forces before and after defeats in the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars and the U.S. victory in the Gulf War against Saddam Hussein's army in 1991 are instructive. The apathy that followed Osama bin Laden's killing also suggests that terrorists can lose hope after the death of a single icon.

Think of hope as a material formed in a crucible over time by a series of successful terrorist strikes against the West and Western-affiliated countries in the Middle East. Since violent actions filled this cru-

cible, only a violent military counter-response can crack the crucible and empty it of hope. The object of a campaign against hope is not necessarily to kill in large numbers but rather to find the greatest vulnerability and shatter it dramatically and decisively.

The terrorist's greatest source of hope today comes from Islamic State battlefield successes in Syria and Iraq. A defeat there cracks the crucible. The question is how to do it with enough drama and speed that terrorists the world over lose hope and become passive. From any perspective, the Islamic State enclave in Syria is militarily unassailable. But Iraq is a different story.

A campaign against hope must start from Baghdad and move northward up the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The Islamic State's vulnerability rests with its disconnected garrisons spotted astride the rivers like a string of pearls. Thanks to U.S. bombing, Islamic State fighters cannot easily move among these enclaves. Thus, a sequence of patient ground assaults against garrisons in cities such as Taji, Hit, Tal Afar and the unusually Mosul will create momentum sufficient to push the Islamic State's forces to the Syrian border. These won't be victories so much as public humiliations, the antidote to hope.

Can the Iraqis do it? If so, can they do it before the Islamic State solidifies its grip on the river cities? One thing is certain: The best hope for a decisive outcome against the hopelessly Mosul will come rests with the Iraqi army and the Americans who are trying to turn them into a viable fighting force.

Robert H. Scales, a retired Army major general, is a former commandant of the U.S. Army War College. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Looking at the news

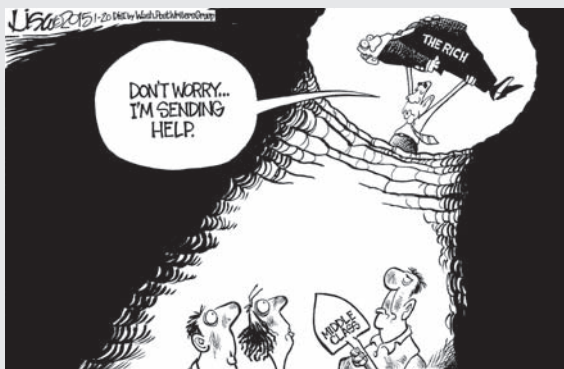
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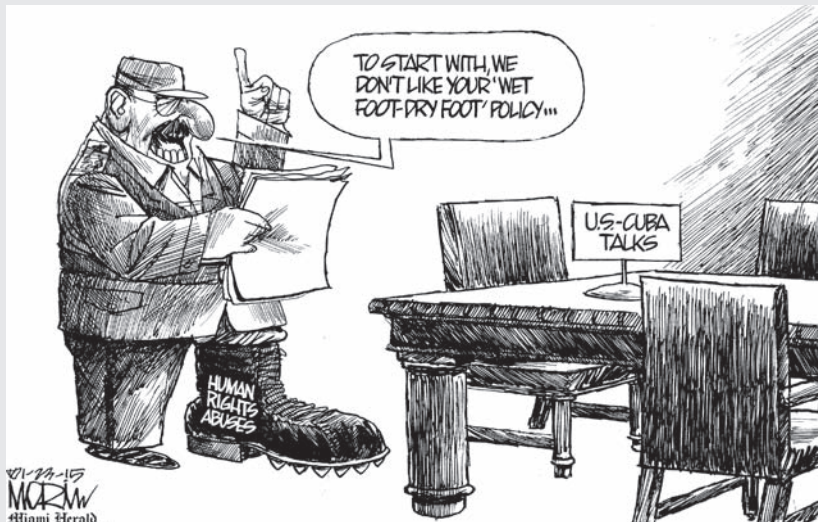
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NBA



DON RYAN/AP

Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge, left, works the ball in against Wizards center Nene during the first half Saturday in Portland, Ore. Aldridge scored 26 points and made 9 rebounds just hours after announcing he was delaying ligament surgery on his left hand. Portland won 103-96.

Roundup

Aldridge gives Blazers lift

Forward delays hand surgery, scores 26 in victory over Wizards

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Each time that LaMarcus Aldridge went to the free-throw line late in the game against the Washington Wizards, the Trail Blazers' forward was showered with a chant of "MVP, MVP" from the home-town fans.

Just two days before, Aldridge had announced he was going to have surgery to repair a ligament in his left thumb and would miss the next six to eight weeks.

But in a dramatic turn, he announced Saturday that he'd play through the pain. And hours later, he had 26 points and nine rebounds in the Blazers' 103-96 victory over the Wizards.

Even the public address announcer at the Moda Center beckoned the crowd to cheer him for a certain call as he finally left the court.

"I'm not into the rah-rah story," Aldridge said. "I just wanted to come back and play. I wanted to play it out at home, and versus these guys because I felt they were a physical team, and if I could play against these guys then that would be good. And I was OK."

Damian Lillard added 20 points and seven assists as the Blazers snapped a two-game losing streak.

Tied at 79 midway through the fourth quarter, Wesley Matthews made two three-pointers that put Portland up 87-85 with 3:28 left. Lillard's three extended the lead 92-85.

Nene's layup closed the Wizards to 94-91 but he missed a free throw then fouled Meyers Leonard on a three-point attempt on the other end. Leonard made all three free throws to put Portland

up 97-91 with 1:07 left and Washington couldn't catch up.

John Wall, who this week was named an Eastern Conference starter for the All-Star game, led the Wizards with 25 points and nine assists.

The Wizards, coming off a 105-103 overtime loss to Oklahoma City on Wednesday, led by as many as 14 points in the first half.

"In the third quarter they really started to make their shots and we didn't. It started to look a lot like the OKC game," Wall said. "We gave ourselves opportunities, we just didn't close out possessions."

The Blazers had lost five of their last six, including Thursday night's last-second 90-89 loss to the Boston Celtics.

It was Aldridge's night after he surprised many by deciding to play despite his proclamation 48 hours earlier that he was planning to undergo surgery. He hurt his thumb on Monday against the Sacramento Kings and missed two games, both Portland losses.

Now, he'll take it a game at a time, he said.

"My idea now is to play the rest of the season," he said. "But if it gets too much where we can't handle it or I'm not playing at a very good level then I'll stop. But hopefully it goes well for us."

Despite the emotional boost from his return, the Blazers didn't hit a shot from the floor in the first 4 minutes of the game. Then Aldridge made his first jumpers.

Grizzlies 101, 76ers 83: Zach Randolph had 17 points and 14 rebounds and Jeff Green scored 18 as host Memphis coasted.

Vince Carter added 13 points

as the Grizzlies (31-12) won their sixth in the last seven games.

Memphis led by as many as 25 in the second half, allowing coach Dave Joergel to rest his starters in the fourth quarter. Marc Gasol, selected as an All-Star starter, finished with nine points, as did point guard Mike Conley.

Bucks 101, Pistons 86: O.J. Mayo scored 20 points, and host Milwaukee relied on perimeter shooting and defense in the win.

The Bucks went 11-for-17 from three-point range, including a 4-for-5 performance from Mayo. The reserve guard made three threes in a 47-second span of the second quarter to spark an 18-2 run that gave Milwaukee a 54-40 lead with 4:27 left in the second quarter.

Hornets 76, Knicks 71: Brian Roberts scored 17 points, and host Charlotte beat New York for its ninth victory in the last 11 games.

Roberts, who started in place of the injured Kemba Walker, was 5-for-9 from the field and made all six free throws as the Hornets snapped the Knicks' three-game win streak.

The Knicks played without Carmelo Anthony, who was held out to rest his knee on the second night of a back-to-back.

Jazz 108, Nets 73: Gordon Hayward scored 24 points and Trey Burke had 19 as host Utah rolled over reeling Brooklyn.

Joe Ingles had a season-high 16 points and Dante Exum had 13 in his second straight start in front of Burke, who came off the bench.

Jarrett Jack had 16 points and Mason Plumlee added 11 points for the Nets, who have dropped three of four.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Toronto | 15 | 13 | | |
| Brooklyn | 18 | 26 | .409 | 10½ |
| Boston | 15 | 26 | .366 | 11 |
| Philadelphia | 8 | 36 | .182 | 20½ |
| New York | 23 | 17 | .577 | 1 |

| Southeast Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Atlanta | 36 | 8 | .818 | — |
| Washington | 29 | 15 | .659 | 7 |
| Miami | 19 | 24 | .442 | 16½ |
| Charlotte | 19 | 26 | .419 | 17 |
| Orlando | 15 | 31 | .326 | 22½ |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Chicago | 23 | 25 | .644 | — |
| Cleveland | 24 | 20 | .545 | 4½ |
| Milwaukee | 21 | 23 | .478 | 6 |
| Detroit | 17 | 27 | .386 | 11½ |
| Indiana | 15 | 30 | .333 | 14 |

Western Conference

| Southwest Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Memphis | 31 | 12 | .721 | — |
| Houston | 30 | 14 | .682 | 1½ |
| Dallas | 30 | 14 | .682 | 1½ |
| San Antonio | 28 | 17 | .622 | 4 |
| New Orleans | 23 | 21 | .523 | 9 |

| Northwest Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Portland | 21 | 11 | .711 | — |
| Oklahoma City | 22 | 21 | .512 | 9 |
| Denver | 18 | 25 | .419 | 13 |
| Utah | 16 | 28 | .364 | 15½ |
| Minnesota | 15 | 36 | .297 | 23½ |

| Pacific Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Golden State | 35 | 6 | .854 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 29 | 14 | .676 | 6 |
| Phoenix | 27 | 17 | .611 | 8 |
| Sacramento | 16 | 27 | .372 | 20 |
| L.A. Lakers | 12 | 33 | .261 | 24½ |

| Saturday's games | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Charlotte 76, New York 71 | | | | |
| Milwaukee 101, Detroit 86 | | | | |
| Memphis 101, Philadelphia 83 | | | | |
| Utah 108, Brooklyn 73 | | | | |
| Portland 103, Washington 96 | | | | |

| Sunday's games | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Miami at Chicago | | | | |
| Philadelphia at Cleveland | | | | |
| L.A. Clippers at Phoenix | | | | |
| Dallas at New Orleans | | | | |
| Minnesota at Atlanta | | | | |
| Indiana at Orlando | | | | |
| Milwaukee at San Antonio | | | | |
| Detroit at Toronto | | | | |
| Boston at Golden State | | | | |
| Washington at Detroit | | | | |
| Houston at L.A. Lakers | | | | |

| Monday's games | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Portland at Brooklyn | | | | |
| Sacramento at New York | | | | |
| Orlando at Memphis | | | | |
| Philadelphia at New Orleans | | | | |
| Minnesota at Oklahoma City | | | | |
| Boston at Utah | | | | |
| Denver at L.A. Clippers | | | | |

| Tuesday's games | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Toronto at Detroit | | | | |
| Milwaukee at Miami | | | | |
| Phoenix at Dallas | | | | |
| Chicago at Golden State | | | | |
| Washington at L.A. Lakers | | | | |

| Wednesday's games | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Toronto at Detroit | | | | |
| Cleveland at Detroit | | | | |
| Milwaukee at Miami | | | | |
| Phoenix at Dallas | | | | |
| Chicago at Golden State | | | | |
| Washington at L.A. Lakers | | | | |

| Thursday's games | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Toronto at Detroit | | | | |
| Cleveland at Detroit | | | | |
| Milwaukee at Miami | | | | |
| Phoenix at Dallas | | | | |
| Chicago at Golden State | | | | |
| Washington at L.A. Lakers | | | | |

| Friday's games | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Toronto at Detroit | | | | |
| Cleveland at Detroit | | | | |
| Milwaukee at Miami | | | | |
| Phoenix at Dallas | | | | |
| Chicago at Golden State | | | | |
| Washington at L.A. Lakers | | | | |

| Saturday | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Trail Blazers 103, Wizards 96 | | | | |
| Washington — Pierce 7-10 2-2 13, Nellis 1-1 1-3, Gortat 2-7 0-0 4, Wall 10-17 5-25, Beal 7-15 1-2 16, Butler 0-2 0-0 14, Matthews 2-6 0-0 4, Webster 1-5 2-5, Miller 2-4 0-0 4, Scraper 2-5 0-0 4, Temple 0-0 0-0 1, To 0-0 0-0 14-96. | | | | |

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|---|--|--|--|--|
| Portland — Crabbe 0-0 0-0 0, Lillard 9-22 8-8 26, Kaman 3-9 0-0 6, Jarrett 5-11 2-10, Matthews 2-6 0-0 6, Leonard 2-10 0-0 14, Robinson 1-2 0-0 2, Blake 2-6 0-0 4, Barton 2-4 0-0 4, Wright 3-10 0-0 10, Leonard 2-3 0-0 3, McCollum 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 35-78 20-103. | | | | |
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| Portland — Crabbe 0-0 0-0 0, Lillard 9-22 8-8 26, Kaman 3-9 0-0 6, Jarrett 5-11 2-10, Matthews 2-6 0-0 6, Leonard 2-10 0-0 14, Robinson 1-2 0-0 2, Blake 2-6 0-0 4, Barton 2-4 0-0 4, Wright 3-10 0-0 10, Leonard 2-3 0-0 3, McCollum 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 35-78 20-103. | | | | |
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| Portland — Crabbe 0-0 0-0 0, Lillard 9-22 8-8 26, Kaman 3-9 0-0 6, Jarrett 5-11 2-10, Matthews 2-6 0-0 6, Leonard 2-10 0-0 14, Robinson 1-2 0-0 2, Blake 2-6 0-0 4, Barton 2-4 0-0 4, Wright 3-10 0-0 10, Leonard 2-3 0-0 3, McCollum 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 35-78 20-103. | | | | |
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| Portland — Crabbe 0-0 0-0 0, Lillard 9-22 8-8 26, Kaman 3-9 0-0 6, Jarrett 5-11 2-10, Matthews 2-6 0-0 6, Leonard 2-10 0-0 14, Robinson 1-2 0-0 2, Blake 2-6 0-0 4, Barton 2-4 0-0 4, Wright 3-10 0-0 10, Leonard 2-3 0-0 3, McCollum 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 35-78 20-103. | | | | |
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Grizzlies 101, 76ers 83

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| Philadelphia — Mbah a Moute 3-9 1-2 7, Covington 2-6 2-3 8, Noel 3-6 1-2 7, Carter-Williams 3-12 2-2 6, Simmons 2-3 0-0 4, Brown 1-2 0-0 2, Sims 1-2 0-0 4, Drayton 1-1 0-0 1, Thompson 2-3 0-0 4, Sampson 4-9 0-0 9, Alderem 2-4 0-0 4, M.Thomas 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-81 12-22. | | | | |
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| Memphis — Green 6-11 4-4 18, Randolph 3-11 0-0 17, Gasol 3-5 5-9 7, 3-8 2-2 9, Lee 1-5 5-6 8, Leuer 2-5 2-2 6, Alen 2-5 0-0 4, Udrih 0-0 0-0 0, Koffie 1-1 0-0 2, Carter 6-14 0-0 13, Calathes 2-2 0-0 4. Totals 37-79 21-25 101. | | | | |
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| Philadelphia — Grant 2-4 0-0 4, Carter-Williams 3-5, Thompson 1-2, McDaniels 1-3, Sampson 1-3, Brown 1-0, Mbah a Moute 0-3, Memphis 6-14 (Green 2-2, Randolph 1-1, Lee 1-2, Conley 1-2, Carter 1-5, Alen 0-1, Udrih 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 32 (Alderm 11), Memphis 53 (Randolph 14), Assists—Philadelphia 18 (Carter-Williams 8), Memphis 24 (Udrih 5). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 19, Memphis 20. Technicals—Randolph 4, Al-17,579 (18,119). | | | | |
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NHL/SPORTS BRIEFS

NHL players show their skills during All-Stars contests

Predators' Shea Weber wins hardest shot competition with 108.5 mph blast

By RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Not that they did before, but it's official now: No one wants to get in front of Shea Weber's shot.

The Nashville Predators defenseman fired the hardest shot of 108.5 mph at the NHL All-Stars skills competition on Saturday night, taking advantage of five-time champion Zdeno Chara's absence.

"I knew I got it," Weber said. "But it's tough. You never know how hard it is until it registers on the gun. But it felt like I got pretty much all I could into it, and (you) just kind of hope for the best."

Fighting his nerves since he doesn't practice high-velocity shots, Weber missed the entire net on a 101.8-mph drive with his first attempt. That nullified that try.

Washington Capitals star Alexander Ovechkin — who stole the show at Friday night's draft

by pleading to be picked last so he would win a new car — had led the competition with a pair of 101.4-mph drives.

But then Weber stepped into his final shot to win the event.

He said it felt strange with the 6-foot-9 Chara — who holds the record of 108.8 mph set in 2012 — not participating.

The team, captained by Columbus Blue Jackets forward Nick Foligno, defeated one led by Chicago Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews, 25-19. The teams were to meet in the 60th All-Star game on Sunday.

A capacity crowd roared with laughter, booed former Columbus players such as New York Rangers star Rick Nash, and gave Weber a standing ovation.

"We had a blast," Foligno said. "The boys did awesome. I wasn't sure how it was going to go but we got off to a great start."

The other premier event at the skills competition featured Ryan Johansen of the hometown Blue



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

Nashville's Shea Weber of Team Toews takes a slap shot measured at 108.5 mph to win the hardest shot competition during the NHL All-Star hockey skills competition in Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday.

Jackets winning the breakout challenge.

Johansen pulled Blue Jackets trainer Mike Vogt's 7-year-old son, Cole, out of the stands to score a goal to the delight of the crowd. In addition, the center endeared himself to Ohio State fans by pulling off his Blue Jackets sweater to reveal a No. 5 Ohio State football jersey — similar to one worn by injured star quarterback Braxton Miller — on his first shot.

Moments after Johansen and Cole Vogt scored their tandem goal, Philadelphia's Jake Voracek did exactly what Johansen did — except instead of a little

boy he grabbed diminutive Calgary rookie Johnny Gaudreau and guided him toward scoring a goal.

In the fastest skater event, in which players were paired off and raced around the perimeter of the rink against the clock, Team Foligno went 5-0 — winning all four races and pocketing an extra point for Tampa Bay's Jonathan Drouin posting the fastest time of 13.103 seconds.

Toronto's Phil Kessel, who was dealt by Team Toews for Tyler Seguin on Friday in a duplicate of a real 2009 deal between Boston and Toronto, surprised many by

edging the Dallas Stars star in the first speed pairing of the event.

In a matchup of Blackhawks teammates, Kane beat Toews by breaking four plates at the corners of a net almost 3 seconds faster — in a time of 13.529 — to push Team Foligno to a 10-1 lead through three events.

The two close friends shared a laugh later when they met at mid-ice.

"We're always competitive with each other in all aspects of the game," Toews said. "Tonight, he got the best of me. I had the chance to take it from him, and it just slipped away. It happens."

Vonn keeps World Cup win streak going with No. 64

The Associated Press

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland — Lindsey Vonn mastered a tricky super-G race on Sunday for a record-extending 64th World Cup victory.

The American star raced down the Engiadina course in 1 minute, 23.55 seconds.

Anna Fenninger of Austria was runner-up for a seventh time this season, 0.24 back. Nicole Hosp of Austria was 1.10 behind Vonn in third.

Vonn now heads for her hometown worlds — which open Feb. 2 at Vail-Beaver Creek, Colo. — having won three of her past four races in an eight-day span.



ARMANDO TROVATI/AP

Lindsey Vonn celebrates after winning a women's World Cup super-G, in St. Moritz, Switzerland, on Sunday.

In other skiing news:

■ Mattias Hargin of Sweden won a men's World Cup slalom on Sunday in Kitzbuehel, Austria, for his first career victory.

Hargin finished in a total time of 1 minute, 43.10 seconds. First-run leader Marcel Hirscher of Austria finished 0.49 behind in second and Felix Neureuther of Germany finished third.

Kuchar stumbles, gives away Humana lead

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Matt Kuchar stumbled late in the third round of the Humana Challenge, handing the lead to Erik Compton, Bill Haas, Justin Thomas and

Michael Putnam.

Two strokes ahead after a birdie on the par-5 14th, Kuchar bogeyed three of the final four holes for a 1-under 71 on PGA West's Arnold Palmer Private Course.

Compton shot a 67 on the Jack Nicklaus Private Course to join Haas, Thomas and Putnam at 17-under 199.

In other golf news:

■ Miguel Angel Jimenez shot an 8-under 64 in windy conditions Saturday in for a share of the lead with Rocco Mediate in the Champions Tour's season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship in Kaupeulu-Kona, Hawaii.

■ Branden Grace made a decisive eagle on the 16th to win the

Qatar Masters on Saturday by one stroke and clinch his sixth European Tour title.

Wagner wins US title, sets scoring record

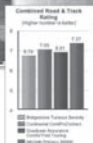
GRENSBORO, N.C. — Ashley Wagner won her third U.S. title, bouncing back better than ever from last year's miserable performance.

Wagner added two new combinations to her long program, and she landed both of them Saturday for a total of seven triples. Her 148.98 points for the free skate and 221.02 overall were U.S. Championships records, beating defending champ Gracie Gold by 15.48.

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HIGH SCHOOLS: DODDS EUROPE

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

Four boys teams emerge as D-II contenders

Parity and diversity have always been hallmarks of DODDS-Europe Division II basketball. This year's realignment has done nothing to change that.

Four teams from three different European countries emerged as legitimate contenders to win the upcoming Division II boys basketball tournament over the weekend, crafting a new class of elite teams on the former turf of Division I call-ups Naples and Vicenza.

Aviano played a hostile host to German divisional rivals Ansbach and Hohenfels, beating the former 55-45 and the latter 57-44. The victories improved the Saints to 7-1 on the season and reiterated their status as a team to beat in the fast-approaching postseason.

The Saints aren't surprised to find a previously-vanquished local rival challenging as well. American Overseas School of Rome has shaken off its season-opening sweep against Aviano to rattle off six straight victories since, including two at this weekend's four-team gathering at Aviano. Sophomore point guard Otis Reale scored 75 combined points this weekend in blowouts of Hohenfels and Ansbach.

Challengers are emerging outside of Italy as well.

Rota made the trip from Spain to the Netherlands for its first DODDS-Europe action of the season and effectively put the field on notice. D'Angelo Gallardo averaged close to 25 points a game across four victories, including two apiece over Bitburg and host AFNORTH.

Away from the multi-team gatherings in Italy and Netherlands, meanwhile, Black Forest Academy landed a non-divisional but equally impactful blow. Noah Greathouse and Jonah Greathouse led the way as the Falcons swept Division I power Wiesbaden in two straight games, capped by a double-overtime 57-55 decision on Saturday.

AFNORTH: The Lions held their own in the three-team boys and girls basketball events they hosted this weekend. The AFNORTH girls swept Rota but lost twice to Bitburg, while the boys split a pair with Bitburg but were swept by Rota.

Alconbury: The Dragons were the breakout team in the three-school Division III basketball gathering they hosted this weekend. Both the Alconbury boys and girls teams recorded Friday and Saturday sweeps over Baumholder.

Ansbach: Cougar marksmanship ace Kaiytynn Carson continued her strong recent run with another first-place finish Saturday at Ansbach. Carson's 284

points paced the Cougars to a first-place finish ahead of conference rivals Viseck and Hohenfels.

Baumholder: The Bucs kept their boys basketball record on the good side of .500 with a 2-2 showing at Alconbury. The Bucs lost two close games to the host Dragons but broke even with routs of Menwith Hill.



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

AOSR point guard Alessia Giambini splits the Ansbach defense while driving to the basket Saturday in a 36-21 victory.



Bitburg: The Barons dominated a three-team Division II girls basketball gathering at AFNORTH. Bitburg beat Rota and AFNORTH twice apiece, with three of the wins coming by margins of at least 27 points.



Brussels: The Brigands jumped emphatically into the DODDS-Europe boys basketball win column Friday. Michael DeFazio had a game-high 17 points as Division III Brussels knocked off Division I SHAPE 41-24.



Hohenfels: Tiger point guard Shelby Atkinson had a subtle but significant impact on her team's 31-21 defeat of Aviano on Saturday, setting up teammates Sierra Standifer and Bella Sacriste for a combined 18 points. "Shelby didn't score, but she was all over the court," coach Shawn Rodman said.



Kaiserslautern: The Raiders continued constructing a strong boys basketball season on Friday, jumping out to an early 21-5 lead on the way to a comfortable 59-49 defeat of Lakenheath. Kaiserslautern will take an 8-1 record into Tuesday's home-court showdown with archrival Ramstein.



Lakenheath: The Lancers split a girls basketball trip to Germany this weekend, besting Kaiserslautern on Friday before falling to Ramstein the next day. Adrianna Ruffin scored 25 points and 16 rebounds in Lakenheath's 43-38 overtime win over the Raiders.



Marymount: The Wireless MMA basketball teams stayed that way after Friday and Saturday losses to Signella. But they'll each have four home-court chances at that elusive first win as Naples and Florence visit over the next two weekends.



Menwith Hill: The undermanned Mustang basketball team, drawing its roster from a school of just 50 eligible students, continued to scrap its way through the program's final season this weekend. "The kids are competitive, they aspire to improve," coach Pete Resnick said.



Naples: The weekend offered a largely frustrating introduction to Division I basketball for the Wildcats, but the Naples boys played well enough to throw a scare into two-time defending champion and unbeaten divisional frontrunner Patch.



Terrell: Staten scored a game-high 28 points in a 51-44 Saturday loss to the Panthers.



Patch: The Panthers held off an unexpectedly stout upset bid from Ramstein in a six-team wrestling meet Saturday at Viseck. Undefeated 195-pounder Mogavero helped tilt the decision in Patch's favor.



Ramstein: The Royals' three-point loss to Patch in Saturday's wrestling meet at Viseck was a mark of substantial progress for the rebuilding program, which lost decisively to the Panthers as well as runner-up Kaiserslautern just two weeks prior. Christian Rivera-Nales (145 pounds), Andros Rios (152) and Dillon Thompson (182) each won respective weight classes.



SHAPE: Spartan grappler Carlos Ulep delivered his squad's lone weight-class win Saturday at Lakenheath. The 113-pounder bested entries from Brussels and Lakenheath for the first-place showing.

Signella: After valiantly but fruitfully battling against larger-division opponents all season, the Jaguars earned their long-awaited first wins of the girls



basketbal season this weekend. Stalwart post Sydney Moore led the way as Signella beat Marymount by scores of 46-10 and 34-8.



Vicenza: A 27-26 girls basketball win over Viseck on Saturday salvaged an otherwise disappointing weekend for Cougar hoops. Emma Knapp totaled 12 points, nine rebounds and three steals in the victory.



Viseck: The Falcon boys basketball team finally cut down on the turnovers that had sabotaged its season on its weekend visit to Italy, and were rewarded with consecutive double-digit wins, 68-54 over Naples and 66-42 over Vicenza. "We're just taking much better care of the ball," coach John Sabala said.



Wiesbaden: A battle of reigning European girls basketball champions went decisively to the Division I Warriors, who recorded Friday and Saturday victories over Division II champ Black Forest Academy. Wiesbaden will take a sparkling 10-0 record into next weekend's home-and-home series with rival Ramstein.

—Gregory Broome

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

Kadena sweeps Friendship tourney titles

Hixon hits winner at buzzer for boys; Rhodes leads girls

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Overtime appeared imminent as Korte Hixon got the basketball. Time was running remorselessly out. His Kadena team had already missed two shots in the closing seconds. It was up to him to beat the clock and put an end to the Okinawa-American Friendship Tournament.

The senior guard hit nothing but net as the final buzzer sounded, giving the Panthers their only lead in a 63-61 win over Kubasaki and unleashing a tidal wave of players and fans onto the court to mob Hixon.

"I just threw it up, hoped it would go in," he said. "Just so happened it went in and we won the game."

The shot also gave Kadena its fourth title in the tournament's nine-year span. He was named All-Tournament along with guard Jaret Colon, who misfired on two three-point tries before Hixon hit the game-winning.

Colon had 18 points and five rebounds, Hixon scored 15 points and Bernal added 12 plus eight boards. Isaiah Richardson led Kadena with 11 rebounds.

No close finish was in the cards in the girls final, which Kadena (19-6) won for the fourth straight year, beating Yonitan 57-42.

Jasmine Rhodes, named All-Tournament, scored 23 points. Tiarrah Edwards, who had 10 plus 12 boards, was also named All-Tournament.

Kinnick: Red Devils wrestling has won everything in sight this season and Saturday's DODDS Japan finals were no exception. Kinnick racked up individual wins and scored 111 team points, claiming back-to-back championships in this tournament and stamping themselves the favorite in the Kanto Plain finals on Feb. 7 at St. Mary's.

King: Cobras basketball came through for their second straight title in the Western Japan Athletic Association Tournament. Dijon Johnson had 19 points, Jacob Lyle had 17 and the Cobras outscored host Canadian Academy 15-8 in the fourth quarter for a 56-53 win.



PHOTOS BY DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Above, Kadena's Jasmine Rhodes shoots over Yonitan's Sayaka Ozato during Sunday's Okinawa-American tournament title game. Rhodes helped the Panthers win their fourth straight title. Right, Kadena's Korte Hixon drives past Kubasaki's Jacob Green on Sunday. Hixon scored the winning basket.



Perry: After qualifying for the WJAA playoffs with two wins each on Friday, Samurai basketball instead found Saturday to be positively nightmarish. Perry's boys suffered their first loss in 14 games, 60-58 to Canadian Academy in the semifinals. Perry's girls lost 25-17 in the semis to Senri Osaka and lost their tallest player, Ani Erhart, to a dislocated shoulder.

Edgren: Sky Phillips was a surprise winner at 135 pounds and Patrick Sledge triumphed at 180 and the Eagles came in second in the DODDS Japan wrestling finals with 66 points. ... Coko Magby averaged 13 points and 12.5 rebounds as Edgren swept Zama in a two-game DODDS Japan weekend set.

Zama: Twin towers Joseph Atkinson and Alex Jones came up huge in Friday's opener at Edgren, combining for 47 points and 25 rebounds in a 71-62 win. But the two were held to just 14 points on Saturday as the Eagles won for the first time in three meetings with the Trojans 61-56.

Yokota: Jordan Goodman proved to be a bright spot for the Panthers, who finished fifth in the DODDS Japan wrestling finals. The sophomore was seeded behind Darius Swenson of Kinnick, but pinned both of his opponents, Jackson Edmonds of Edgren in the semifinals and Swenson for the title.

Guam: Panthers boys basketball got off to a rocky start, falling Saturday to Father Duena Memorial 61-46 and into a three-way tie for last in the Gadao Division. ... Paced by Sidney Gadsden's singles victory, Guam tennis rolled over Southern, the boys 32-2 and the girls 32-10 on Thursday at Ninete Tennis Center.

Seoul American: With victories Saturday over Seoul Foreign, the Falcons boys and girls captured the regular-season titles in the Korean-American Inter-scholastic Activities Conference Blue Division and earned the top seed in the KAJAC Blue tournaments on Feb. 6-7. Both titles came in the first year as head coaches for James Davis and Dean Florio.

Osan: Following their second straight loss after winning six straight to open, Nicholas White's hot shooting hand helped the Cougars boys right the ship with a 68-56 win at Yongsan on Saturday. The senior guard is averaging a DODDS Pacific-best 29.2 points per game.

Daegu: Joone Abaya and Devin Speights also kept up their scoring pace, Abaya netting 25 points and Speights 12 as the defending KAJAC Blue and Far East Division II champion Warriors won their first game in nine tries, 52-51 over Taejon Christian on Friday.

Humphreys: Sophomore guard Kaylee Spielman scored a season-high 15 points and Daniella McCoy chipped in with 10 as the Blackhawks girls also claimed their first victory of the season in nine tries and on the road, 49-11 at Daegu on Saturday. Humphreys coach Ashley Gooch is a 2005 graduate of the then-Taegu American School.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL



RAYMOND THOMPSON/AP

West Virginia guard Jevon Carter celebrates after making both of his free-throws in overtime to defeat TCU 86-85 on Saturday in Morgantown, W.Va.

Mountaineers edge TCU in OT

Carter sinks two FTs with 1 second left

By JOHN RABY

The Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va.—West Virginia's Jevon Carter can now add clutch shooter to his young resume.

Carter sank two free throws with 1 second left in overtime to lift No. 18 West Virginia to an 86-85 victory over TCU on Saturday.

Teammate Jaysean Paige bear-hugged Carter after the final horn sounded, and West Virginia's players carried Carter off as fans stormed the court.

"I've been dreaming that my whole life," Carter said. "When I was a little kid, I had the thought. It was always going to be a big game with no time remaining on the clock and I got to the line and go to the free throw line to make two shots and win the game."

Thanks to the freshman, West Virginia (16-3, 4-2 Big 12) narrowly avoided another meltdown after falling 77-50 at No. 17 Texas a week ago.

Carter had already come up big for the Mountaineers earlier this season. The reserve guard scored 28 points in a win over VMI and entered Saturday's game as the best free-throw shooter (79 percent) on a team averaging only 67 percent from the line.

West Virginia made 6 of 8 free throws in overtime after going 16 of 24 in regulation.

TCU led 80-75 after a Kyan Anderson jumper with 1:16 left in overtime, but Dexter Miles Jr. hit 3-pointers 21 seconds apart to put West Virginia ahead 84-83 with 8 seconds left.

After TCU's Trey Zeigler made a basket in the lane with 2 seconds left, Carter missed a layup but was fouled by Anderson on the drive.

Carter said he initially thought he cost his team a chance to win the game.

"Then I looked at the ref and he had his hand up and I was like, 'Thank the Lord,'" Carter said.

Carter said teammate Juwan Staten gave him some encouragement before the free throws.

"He said, 'You're the best shooter on this team,'" Carter said. "You're going to go to the line and win this game."

Staten and Devin Williams had 18 points apiece for the Mountaineers. Jonathan Holton added 15 points and Miles scored 12.

Anderson scored 22 points to lead six players in double figures for the Horned Frogs (14-5, 1-5).

TCU had a chance to match the number of league wins (2) it had in the past two seasons combined. The Horned Frogs held a 47-37 rebounding advantage and made 5 of 6 field goals in overtime but missed three free throws in the final minute.

"We had opportunities from the free throw line and we didn't get it done," said TCU coach Trent Johnson. "This is one thing about athletics that I really struggle with. These losses are really hard."

"We need to regroup."

In regulation, TCU came from eight points down in the final nine minutes, with Zeigler's turnaround jumper in the lane giving the Horned Frogs a 72-70 lead.

Miles hit a layup with 1 second left, and TCU turned the ball over on the subsequent inbounds play without any time ticking off the clock.

Staten then inbounded to Williams, who had his back turned to the basket and missed an off-balanced short shot at the buzzer.

Roundup

Zags' home win streak hits 36

The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Przemek Karnowski and Gary Bell Jr. each scored 13 points as No. 3 Gonzaga routed Pacific 91-60, extending the nation's longest home winning streak to 36 games.

Silas Melson added 12 points and Byron Wesley 11 for Gonzaga (20-1, 9-0 West Coast), which is off to the best start in program history. The Zags have won 13 consecutive games since their only loss at No. 7 Arizona in overtime.

Eric Thompson and T.J. Wallace scored 12 points each for Pacific (10-11, 2-7), which lost its second straight.

Mark Few has never failed to win at least 20 games in 16 seasons as Gonzaga's coach.

No. 1 Kentucky 58, South Carolina 43: Devin Booker scored 18 points, Aaron Harrison added 13 and Kentucky matched its best start under coach John Calipari with a victory over host South Carolina.

The Wildcats (19-0, 6-0 Southeastern Conference) pulled away with 14 straight points after the Gamecocks (10-8, 1-5) took their last lead at 24-23 with 4:31 in the opening half.

Kentucky's lead never fell below double digits after that.

No. 6 Wisconsin 69, Michigan 64 (OT): Frank Kaminsky scored eight of his 22 points in overtime and visiting Wisconsin held off Michigan.

Derrick Walton's three-pointer with 1.3 seconds left in regulation tied the game at 57, but the Badgers never trailed in the extra session. Kaminsky opened the scoring in overtime with a three-point play, and a three-pointer by Josh Gasser put the Badgers (18-2, 6-1 Big Ten) ahead by six.

No. 7 Arizona 73, California 50: Stanley Johnson had 19 points and nine rebounds, Dusan Ristic scored 12 points and Arizona avenged last season's loss in overtime by crushing host California.

The Wildcats (18-2, 6-1 Pac-12) overcame early foul trouble to their frontcourt to finish the first half ahead by 10. They came out of the break with another big burst, going ahead by 24 points and cruising to their fourth consecutive win.

The Golden Bears (11-9, 1-6) have lost six straight, falling into last place in the conference.

Texas Tech 78, No. 9 Iowa State 73: Devaughn Williams scored a career-high 22 points and Toddrick Grotcher added 17 leading Texas Tech over visiting Iowa State for its first Big 12 win.

Grotcher made five of Texas Tech's 11 three-pointers, tying the team's high for the season. Williams, a junior transfer, added two three-pointers.

The win for Texas Tech was the first over a top 10 team since March 2009 when they beat ninth-ranked Kansas.

No. 11 Kansas 75, No. 17 Texas 62: Cliff Alexander had 15 points and nine rebounds, and Kansas' best shot was for a key road win in the rugged Big 12.



TORI EICHBERGER, LUBBOCK AVANCE-JOURNAL/AP

Texas Tech's Isaiah Manderson, center, and Zach Smith defend Iowa State's Georges Niang on Saturday. Texas Tech upset Iowa State.

The Jayhawks easily handled Texas' size advantage inside and got timely three-point shooting to break the game open in the second half. Brannen Greene made four three-pointers and four Jayhawks scored in double figures. Kansas (16-3, 5-1) was nearly flawless with the ball, committing just three turnovers.

No. 15 North Carolina 78, Florida State 74: Brice Johnson had 18 points and 14 rebounds to help North Carolina beat visiting Florida State.

Marcus Paige scored 19 points to lead the Tar Heels (16-4, 6-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who won their fifth straight league game.

Freshman Xavier Rathan-Mayes scored a school freshman record 35 points to lead the Seminoles (10-10, 2-5).

No. 21 Baylor 69, No. 19 Oklahoma 58: Lester Medford had 17 points, Rico Gathers provided the rim-rocking highlight in a game-clinching run and host Baylor beat Oklahoma.

Medford hit a three-pointer in a late 10-0 run that finally put the Bears ahead to stay.

No. 22 Dayton 63, Richmond 60: Dysawn Pierre scored 21 points, and Dayton let a double-digit lead slip away before rally-

ing to beat Richmond, remaining unbeaten at home.

The Flyers (16-3, 6-1 Atlantic 10) led by 10 points at halftime but went cold at the start of the second half, allowing the Spiders (10-9, 3-3) to make it a game.

Purdue 67, No. 25 Iowa 63: Raphael Davis scored 16 of his 24 points in the first half to lead Purdue past host Iowa.

Holy Cross 76, Navy 65: Malachi Alexander scored 17 points and shot 10-for-13 at the foul line to lead host Holy Cross over Navy.

The Mids (7-13, 2-5 Patriot League) took an 11-point lead midway through the first half but were held to just six points in the final 6 minutes before the break.

Tilman Dunbar made a layup for the Midshipmen's only points in the first 7:50 of the second half, and the Crusaders led by 19 with 13 minutes left to play.

Boise State 77, Air Force 68: Derrick Marks scored 28 points and Nick Duncan added a career-high 20 to lead Boise State.

The Falcons held a 31-30 lead at intermission. Boise State pulled ahead on Marks' three-pointer — the first shot of the second half — and never trailed again, although there were five ties in the final 20 minutes.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Senior Bowl

Huskers' Abdullah impresses for North

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. — Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah wanted to leave an impression on more than just the NFL watchers at the Senior Bowl.

Abdullah rushed for 73 yards and added 40 receiving while leading the North to a 34-13 victory over the South on Saturday in the Senior Bowl, putting his college career in his home state.

"Being down here was much more than putting on a good performance for me," said Abdullah, a Homebrew, Ala., native who had a large group of family and friends on hand. "Leaving this state was something that was hard for me to do. You could write a movie about it, really, just coming back and playing on Alabama soil for my last game as a collegiate athlete. I couldn't paint a better picture.

"It was emotional for me. I grew up watching this game. This was a monumental day for me."

The Cornhuskers' No. 2 career rusher won MVP honors in a game that showcases senior NFL prospects.

Abdullah made the most of his 11 touches, including four catches. He said being ready for quarterbacks to check down to the backs was emphasized.

"Obviously I'm a running back so I'm going to run the football but I wanted just to show that I had more than one dynamic to my game," Abdullah said. "I finished running back David Cobb gained 69 yards on 11 carries, including a 4-yard touchdown late in the third quarter.

The top passers were Baylor's Bryce Petty of the North and Colorado State's Garrett Grayson on the South. Petty was 9 of 13 for 123 yards with an interception. Grayson completed 8 of 15 passes for 118 yards.

Petty came in trying to demonstrate he could run a pro-style offense after operating a no-huddle attack in college. He is hoping his willingness to play in the game after just training since Jan. 6 made an impression.

"I took my lumps and bruises, which I knew was going to happen," Petty said. "I've still got a lot to prove. But experience-wise, this was great for me."

Utah's Nate Orchard, playing outside linebacker, was chosen as the North's most outstanding player. The Ted Hendricks Award winner as the nation's top defensive end had 1½ tackles for loss.

"I had a chance to show my versatility throughout the week and it showed up on game day," Orchard said. "It was fun."



LEE JIN-MAH/AP

Andy Murray reaches out for a shot to Grigor Dimitrov during their fourth-round match at the Australian Open on Sunday.

Murray advances to face Aussie teen

Precocious Kyrgios up next for Brit; Nadal, Sharapova reach quarterfinals with relative ease

By JOHN PYE
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — After the clock ticked past midnight, Andy Murray became aware that it was officially Australia Day and he already knew from the crowd reaction what to expect in the quarterfinals.

Murray, a two-time Grand Slam champion and three-time Australian Open finalist, fended off racket-smashing Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-5 in a fourth-round match that started Sunday but continued into the early hours of Jan. 26, the national holiday that regularly occurs during the Australian Open.

Midway through his match against No. 10-ranked Dimitrov, who beat him in the Wimbledon quarterfinals last year, Murray heard a distinctive roar that started somewhere in the distance and echoed through Rod Laver Arena.

"I heard a lot of noise — I had to ask my box what it was for," he said. It was for 19-year-old Nick Kyrgios, who came back from two sets down and saved a match point to beat Andreas Seppi 5-7, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 8-6 on Hisense Arena — the No. 3 court at Melbourne Park — to become the first Aussie male to reach the last eight at the Australian Open since Lleyton Hewitt in 2005.

Kyrgios has developed quite a reputation for his audacious blend of shots, for his crowd in-

teraction, for his outbursts and for his results: as a wild-card entry with a No. 144 ranking at Wimbledon last year, he beat then No. 1-ranked Rafael Nadal in the fourth round.

As a couple stood to leave on Sunday during the fifth set — one in which Kyrgios let a 4-1 lead slip and then had to save break points — he called out to them: "Hey, where are you going?" The show, evidently, was not over.

His first words after the win, as the crowd continued to chant and scream like soccer fans: "Thanks mate. Feels so good." Murray, who was broken when serving for the second set and lost the subsequent tiebreaker, rallied from 5-2 down in the fourth set to beat Dimitrov, who shattered his racket on the court after surrendering his last service game.

The high-energy night matches overshadowed the day session Sunday, when Nadal continued his comeback from a long-term injury layoff with a 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 win over towering Kevin Anderson to set up a quarterfinal against No. 7 Tomas Berdych.

"The chance to be in the quarterfinals after a tough period of time for me is a fantastic result," Nadal said.

No. 2-ranked Maria Sharapova won the last eight games of her 6-3, 6-0 victory over Peng Shuai and will next play seventh-seeded Eugenie Bouchard, who had a see-sawing 6-1, 5-7, 6-2 win over Irina-Camelia Begu. French

Open finalist Simona Halep beat Yanina Wickmayer 6-4, 6-2 to set up a quarterfinal against No. 10 Ekaterina Makarova, who beat Julia Georges in straight sets.

Bouchard made it to the last four at the first three Grand Slam tournaments of 2014, including a

semifinal loss to eventual champion Sharapova at the French Open. "She's playing really well, confident tennis. So aggressive," Sharapova said of the 20-year-old Canadian. "I have a tough match ahead of me, but I always look forward to that."

Scoreboard

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|---|
| Sunday |
| At Melbourne, Australia |
| Purse: \$32.5 million (Grand Slam) |
| Surface: Hard-Outdoor |
| Singles Men |
| Fourth Round |
| Rafael Nadal (3), Spain, def. Kevin Anderson (14), South Africa, 7-5, 6-1, 6-4. |
| Tomas Berdych (7), Czech Republic, def. Bernard Tomic, Australia, 6-2, 7-5 (3), 6-2. |
| Nick Kyrgios, Australia, def. Andreas Seppi, Italy, 5-7, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 8-6. |
| Andy Murray (6), Britain, def. Grigor Dimitrov (10), Bulgaria, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-5. |
| Women |
| Fourth Round |
| Eugenie Bouchard (7), Canada, def. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2. |
| Ekaterina Makarova (10), Russia, def. Julia Georges, Germany, 6-3, 6-2. |
| Maria Sharapova (2), Russia, def. Peng Shuai (21), China, 6-3, 6-0. |
| Simona Halep (3), Romania, def. Yanina Wickmayer, Belgium, 6-4, 6-2. |
| Doubles Men |
| Third Round |
| Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Pietrangeli, France, def. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Nenad Zimonjic (6), Serbia, 6-3, 6-3. |
| Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and David Marrero, Spain, def. Alex Bolt and Andrew Whittington, Australia, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (3). |
| Julien Benneteau and Edouard Roger-Vasselin (2), France, def. Benjamin Becker, Germany, and Artem Sitak, New Zealand, 6-4, 6-4. |
| Feliciano Lopez, Spain, and Max Mirnyi, Belarus, def. Jonathan Erlich, Israel, and Treat Huey, Philippines, 7-5, 6-3. |
| Women |
| Third Round |
| Kiki Bertens, Netherlands, and Johanna Larsson, Sweden, def. Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, and Sam Stosur, Australia, 7-6 (5), 6-3. |
| Klaudia Jans-Ignacik, Poland, and Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, def. Gabriela Dobrowsky, Canada, and Alicia Rosolska, Poland, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. |
| Raquel Kops-Jones and Abigail Spears (5), United States, def. Alla Kudryavtseva and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (12), Russia, 6-4, 6-4. |
| Michella Krajcek, Netherlands, and Barbora Zacharova Strýcová, Czech Republic, def. Gabriela Dobrowsky, Canada, and Alicia Rosolska, Poland, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. |
| Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (3), Russia, def. Silvia Soler-Espinosa and Maria-Teresa Torro-Flor, Spain, 6-1, 6-2. |
| First Round |
| Chang Kai-chen, Taiwan, and Zhang Ze, China, def. Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Germany, and Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, 6-2, 4-6, 10-6. |
| Casey Dellacqua and John Peers, Australia, def. Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic, and Marcin Matkowski (6), Poland, 7-5, 6-4. |
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SUPER BOWL

Patriots' championship legacy on the line

After three Super Bowl losses, New England must prove it still has the winning touch

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — When the conversation turns to Super Bowl losers, the Bills and Vikings immediately come up.

Both are 0-4, Buffalo managing the feat in consecutive seasons.

The Broncos were in that sinking ship until John Elway completed his Hall of Fame career with two championships.

The Patriots? They own a share of the short-term success mark in Super Bowls: three in a four-year span. They've been back twice since their previous championship victory and failed to add to their collection.

Should they lose to Seattle next Sunday, these Patriots will become three-time losers, too. Those with short memories could begin wondering where that winning touch went?

Then again, a win at University of Phoenix Stadium will tie Tom Brady with the likes of two more Hall of Famers, Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw, for Super victories. It would lift Bill Belichick onto the same level as Chuck Noll, the only coaches with four Super Bowl rings.

But the other side of the ledger can't be ignored: Despite their amazing run of success in their division — the admittedly mediocre AFC East — the Patriots have gone a full decade between titles.

"I would say the excitement is high, but it's also more focused," says receiver Julian Edelman, who was on the squad that lost to the Giants three years ago.

"You have guys that have been to this game, guys that haven't been to this game. You have guys that won the game; you have guys that haven't won the game when they've been there. Everyone is kind of just focused and trying to get ready to prepare for this team. We're playing the champs."

They used to be the champs, but since beating Philadelphia in Jacksonville for the 2004 NFL crown, the Patriots have seen the Giants grab the Lombardi Trophy twice against them; seen Pittsburgh also win it two times; seen Baltimore, Green Bay, Indianapolis, New Orleans, and Seattle conclude their seasons with a championship. New England also lost twice in the Super Bowl before Belichick and Brady took over.

What has happened for New England, other than dozens of wins except for one in



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, left, speaks with head coach Bill Belichick after the AFC Championship game, in Foxborough, Mass. A third loss in the Super Bowl could tag the three-time champion Patriots as big-game losers, while a fourth win would cement Brady and Belichick as all-time greats.

the big game?

Many factors have contributed to the streak the Patriots can end next weekend:

Slippage on defense: Yes, Belichick earned his stripes as a defensive mastermind, but ever since Brady matured into a dominant passer, New England has been an offensive team. That's been important to remain a contender as the NFL has evolved into a high-scoring league. But in

the biggest matchups, often against other potent attacks, the Patriots' defense has been lacking. They haven't had a true stud pass rusher or a star defensive back (until signing Darrelle Revis this season), and they've also had some unfortunate injuries, particularly to linebacker Jerod Mayo.

Unbalanced offense: Belichick has been willing to make do with inconsistent running backs or returners, and he also has

soured on some of them, especially if they can't hold onto the football. That disorder in the backfield has put more pressure on Brady and the passing game. Fortunately for New England, Brady is an all-time great.

But the changing cast behind him can be disruptive.

Of course, since that most recent Super Bowl win, he's had the likes of Randy Moss, Wes Welker, Rob Gronkowski and Edelman to throw to. Any QB would like that group.

Yet opponents have found in the playoffs that they rarely will be beaten by the Patriots' run game, so they have loaded up on the pass rush, on coverage, and on making Brady uncomfortable.

No fear: The opposition, especially when the Patriots were winning their past two titles, often reacted to what New England was doing instead of emphasizing their own strengths. That changed altogether in the 2008 Super Bowl, when the Giants unleashed monstrous pressure on Brady, didn't make mistakes on either side of the ball, and shattered the Patriots' chase of perfection.

Pretty much the same thing has occurred in every postseason since, including after the 2011 schedule when the Giants beat them again for the prize. Think of how Baltimore and the Jets strutted their stuff in postseason matchups at Gillette Stadium.

Coaching: Say what? Belichick holds the record for postseason victories with 21, surpassing Tom Landry last week. But twice he was outmaneuvered in Super Bowls by Tom Coughlin and his defensive coordinators. And two other times, John Harbaugh made many more correct moves in a playoff matchup.

It would be foolish to think that Belichick no longer can handle the sharpest spotlight — which he ignores anyway. So it will be one of the most intriguing story lines of this Super Bowl to see how the chess match goes against Pete Carroll, perhaps the finest coach Belichick will have faced at this juncture.

It would also be ill-advised to play up the recent postseason shortcomings and ignore the earlier successes. Still, should they lose, lots of people could wind up judging the Patriots more on what has happened in the past decade than what occurred in those glorious early seasons of Brady/Belichick.

Mad: Super Bowl has provided classic trash-talking moments

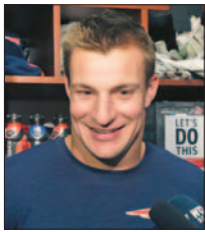
FROM BACK PAGE

Brady was too busy talking about deflated footballs to fire back this week. But he'll get plenty of chances in Arizona before the teams meet Sunday.

"I just thought he came up and said, 'Good game.' So that was all a bit of a surprise to me," Brady says about Sherman's postgame taunting in 2012.

Brady would be back down from anybody, and is quite animated during games, so expect to see these two go back-and-forth in the Super Bowl.

It also will be interesting to see if Gronkowski tries to bounce Lee after the slot cornerback dissed the Patriots tight end.



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

The Patriots' Rob Gronkowski speaks to media at his locker in Foxborough, Mass. on Friday.

"I actually don't think he's that good," Lane said on Thursday.

Those are fighting words for Gronkowski. When Sergio Brown riled him up in November, Gronkowski tossed aside the Indianapolis safety and joked that he "threw him out of the club" because he was talking too much.

Here are some of the best Super Bowl trash-talking moments:

Joe Namath: Broadway Joe guaranteed the underdog New York Jets would beat the Baltimore Colts in the third Super Bowl. The Colts were 18-point favorites against the Jets, but Namath made his bold prediction three days before the game. Namath backed up

his declaration, leading the Jets to a 16-7 victory.

Lyle Alzado: The intense defensive end was one of the NFL's wilder personalities. Alzado tried to intimidate opponents and often backed up his brash talk. Before the Los Angeles Raiders played the Washington Redskins in the 1984 Super Bowl, Alzado said: "I'm gonna take off Joe Theismann's head." Alzado didn't get any of the six sacks on Theismann, but his Raiders won 38-9.

Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson: The flamboyant linebacker known for his self-promotion caused a stir before the Dallas Cowboys played the Pittsburgh

Steelers in the 1979 Super Bowl. Henderson questioned Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw's intelligence: "Bradshaw couldn't spell 'cat' if you spotted him the 'c' and the 'a'." Henderson said. Bradshaw got the last laugh, leading the Steelers to a 35-31 win.

Shannon Sharpe: The Hall of Fame tight end never stopped yapping throughout his career. After Atlanta Falcons cornerback Ray Buchanan said Sharpe looked like a horse before the 1999 Super Bowl, Sharpe responded: "Now I know he ain't talkin' with them big teeth in his mouth. I think he's ugly." Sharpe had just two catches, but his Denver Broncos beat Atlanta 34-19.

SUPER BOWL

ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

To be Blount Patriots RB feels appreciated, happier after leaving Steelers

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

A FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Right cross to an opponent's chin. An arrest on a marijuana possession charge. A decision to walk out on the Pittsburgh Steelers.

And now, for LeGarrette Blount, a spot in the Super Bowl in a revived career.

"It's had its ups and downs," the hard-hitting running back for the New England Patriots said. "I've had good times and bad and I've embraced them all. So I'm enjoying every second of this."

Blount returned to practice Thursday for the NFL championship game against the defending champion Seattle Seahawks in Glendale, Arizona, on Feb. 1.

He helped the Patriots get there by rushing for 148 yards and three touchdowns on 30 carries in a 45-7 rout of the Indianapolis Colts last Sunday night.

A feeling of redemption, perhaps? "No," Blount said, "it was the feeling of winning the AFC championship."

It's a high point of a career that plummeted early in his senior year at Oregon when he punched opponent Byron Hout on the field after a loss to Boise State. Hout ap-

'I've had good times and bad and I've embraced that all. So I'm enjoying every second of this.'

LeGarrette Blount
Patriots running back

peared to say something to Blount before being hit and Blount, who was led to the locker room by security personnel, apologized immediately after the game.

He spent the next three seasons with Tampa Bay after going undrafted, then was traded to the Patriots in April 2013. He rushed for 166 yards and four touchdowns in a divisional playoff win over Indianapolis. But two months after a loss to Denver in the AFC championship game, he signed a two-year contract with Pittsburgh.

In his first training camp with the Steelers, Blount was arrested on a marijuana possession charge after police said they found marijuana in a car Pittsburgh running back Le'Veon Bell was driving. Bell also was arrested.

Bell started all 11 games in which he and Blount were teammates.

Blount's frustration mounted when he

ran five times for no yards in the 10th game then didn't carry the ball at all in the next game, a 27-24 loss at Tennessee. As quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was preparing to kneel down on the final play, Blount headed to the locker room.

When teammates got there he was about to leave for the team bus.

"I was still dressed in my football stuff and I went out to go get him," Steelers safety Mike Mitchell said. "I know he's not a selfish guy. He's a team guy, but it's more so knowing his feelings were hurt."

Blount was cut the next day.

"If there was someone that was a cancer ended up leaving on his own, that's a blessing for us," Pittsburgh center Maurkice Pouncey said the day Blount was released.

"He's been a good teammate. ... He made his decision last night and it's probably going to stick with him for a while."

Not really.

Two days later, he signed with the Patriots. And three days after that, he rushed for 78 yards and two touchdowns on 12 carries in a 34-9 win over the Detroit Lions.

In the regular season, he rushed for 266 yards in 11 games with the Steelers and 281 in five games with the Patriots.

"I'm in a better scenario than I could possibly be in right now," Blount said.

And he's surrounded by appreciative teammates.

"We love LG whether he has 250 yards or 5 yards," running back Shane Vereen said. "He's a great player, a great teammate. He's accepted around here and everybody loves him."

In the AFC championship game, the 250-pound Blount showed power and agility in running over and around defenders.

Blount still faces repercussions from his time in Pittsburgh. He's due in court Feb. 4 when the marijuana possession charge could be dismissed. By then he could be a Super Bowl champion.

"I like it here a lot," Blount said. "I just wanted to be a part of an organization like that and I got my chance to and I'm taking full advantage of it."

SPORTS



Helping hand

Aldridge delays surgery, leads
Blazers past Wizards » **Page 24**

SUPER BOWL XLIX



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

In this Oct. 14, 2012, file photo, Seattle cornerback Richard Sherman, right, talks to New England quarterback Tom Brady after the Seahawks won 24-23 in Seattle.

Sherman, Seahawks already trash-talking Brady's Pats

By ROB MAADDI
The Associated Press

Seattle cornerback Richard Sherman gave New England quarterback Tom Brady an earful and trolled him on Twitter a few years ago.

Now Sherman says Brady isn't really a choir boy.

Sherman vs. Brady. Jeremy Lane vs. Rob Gronkowski. Doug Baldwin vs. the world. This Super Bowl between the Seahawks and Patriots will feature some epic yapping from some of the best trash-talkers in the NFL.

'People get a skewed view of Tom Brady, that he's just a clean-cut, does-everything-right [guy], and never says a bad word to anyone, and we know him to be otherwise.'

Richard Sherman
Seattle Seahawks cornerback

"People get a skewed view of Tom Brady, that he's just a clean-cut, does-everything-right [guy], and never says a bad word to anyone, and we know him to

be otherwise," Sherman says.

He says he dared Brady to throw his way during Seattle's 24-23 win over New England in 2012. He didn't like the three-

time Super Bowl champion's response.

"He was pretty much saying that we were nobodies and that we should come up to him after they get the win," Sherman says.

Sherman intercepted one of Brady's passes in that game and got in his face after Seattle won. Sherman then posted a picture of the confrontation on Twitter with the caption: "U mad bro?"

"In that moment of him being himself, he said some things and we returned the favor," Sherman explains. "Unfortunately, he apparently didn't remember what he said."

SEE MAD ON PAGE 30

Kadena collects pair of titles at tournament » **Page 27**

